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# November 2015

## INSPIRING HOMES

- 22 **PET PROJECT** An exciting new renovation with a spacious extension was on the cards for this Grade II listed lodge in Surrey
- 41 **COUNTRY ESCAPE** After years of hunting for their dream weekend retreat, this pair never expected to discover it one day in the Cotswolds
- 46 **SPECIAL BLEND** This West Sussex home felt a bit mismatched following numerous extensions, so a complete remodel was required
- 70 **KEEPING IT FRESH** There's always a project on the go in this modern oast house in Kent
- 92 **SPACE INVADERS** By altering the layout of this London abode, the perfect space for entertaining friends has been created

- 100 **CAPITAL CHOICE** A London terrace has been adapted to suit the needs of a young family
- 132 **INSIDE OUT** Reworking the existing space and extending into the loft has maximised the potential of this London townhouse
- 142 **COLOUR THERAPY** A daring mix of bold hues and bright vintage finds have freshened up a neglected red-brick semi in Belfast
- 154 **VIVID IMAGINATION** Vibrant hues and unique textiles have created an unexpected interior in a Georgian property in Cheshire
- 159 **BACK TO LIFE** Although inexperienced first-time buyers, this couple weren't afraid to tackle a run-down refurbishment in Hampshire

## COVER STORY



A chalky off-white palette provides a chic backdrop for statement pieces in this Cotswolds cottage (see page 41).



## NEW-BUILD

- 82 **COMING HOME** Returning to the family farm has allowed this couple to put their own stamp on the renovation
- 123 **WHITE HOUSE** Long hours, patience and four years of hard work has led to a chic and stylish three-storey in Somerset

## REPLANNED

- 34 **SHAPE SHIFTERS** How one couple brought a period home in Dublin into the 21st century, while still preserving its original charm and character
- 52 **LOST AND FOUND** Timeless Mid-Century furniture and simple textiles adorn this Edwardian home in York
- 77 **PERFECT PLANNING** A love of vibrant colours and striking artwork is evident in this extended bungalow in Ireland
- 86 **SIMPLY DIVINE** Moving from London to the West Sussex coast was a welcome change for this growing family
- 112 **WILD AT HEART** The woodland surroundings have influenced the interior of a former pub in the New Forest
- 136 **IN THE NICK OF TIME** A radical overhaul has modernised a former police headquarters in Edinburgh
- 146 **CLASSIC MIX** This couple drew on previous experience from other renovations to create an elegant and pared-back interior in their Buckinghamshire home

## UNIQUE

- 128 **THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS** A clever combination of antiques and curiosities fuse together to create a fantasy-inspired scheme in this Sussex Victorian villa
- 150 **SAFE HAVEN** Upcycled finds combined with splashes of gold create a welcoming feel in this family home in London

## DISTINCTIVE

- 58 **CREAM OF THE CROP** How an idyllic Irish lodge and its picturesque outbuildings have been brought back to life
- 65 **SPARK OF GENIUS** The tired decor in a Victorian home in Berkshire was in need of some care and attention
- 96 **IN THE FAMILY** A farmhouse and its outbuildings in Lincolnshire have been restored into one large, light-filled home
- 107 **GOING GREEN** This semi-derelict farm in Herefordshire has been given a sympathetic but eco-friendly revamp

## REGULAR FEATURES

- 11 **NEWS** This month's hot shopping trends
- 15 **Q&A** Your decorating queries answered by our expert
- 90 **READER OFFER** Go on safari, travel into the heart of Vietnam and Cambodia, or see the Northern Lights
- 105 **READER OFFER** Receive 20 per cent off at Dwell
- 117 **THE SOURCE** Follow our tips and bring the ideas seen in some of this issue's properties into your home
- 141 **READER OFFER** Half-price fine wines and luxury duvets
- 164 **STOCKISTS** Find your favourite names here
- 178 **ROOM ENVY** The scheme that's inspired us this month



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# WELCOME

If you were to ask me what I'm looking to add to my home right now, my answer would be furniture. More specifically, bedroom furniture. Now that our son's a teenager, he treats the floor as if it were a storage system – something needs to be done. It seems his clothes have outgrown the wardrobe and I keep trying to think of a better answer without filling the room with too much furniture. This is the constant challenge of children's rooms – when they're young it's all about storage for toys, and then as they get older it's how to fit a desk in without overcrowding the space, as well as ensuring that they're happy at all times. At the back of my mind, I know I could spend a lot of money but the floor will still be his preferred option, so I'm not in a rush to sort it out. However, every now and then I find myself looking for the perfect solution. Obviously our homes are full of furniture and choosing one new piece seems simple enough, but I think it can also be fraught with danger. Will the colour and size be right? Will the room feel too busy? Will it work with the existing furniture? This is why I enjoy browsing the homes in the magazine, as it always proves very useful. It helps me gauge what might work in my different rooms.

*Deborah*

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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### PASTEL HUES

A festive family home in the Highlands dressed with all the trimmings



### SCANDI STYLE

Rustic materials combine with a neutral palette in this all-white Swedish property



### SIMPLE BEAUTY

How a bijou cottage in Hampshire has been revived with a ski-chalet vibe



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# NOVEMBER

TRENDS | WHAT'S NEW | MUST-HAVE BUYS



## ACROSS THE UNIVERSE

The cosmic trend is having its moment in the sun. Explore time and space with an awe-inspiring collection of furniture and accessories that are out of this world

**1 KEEP ON SHINING**  
Henge light ring, from  
£3,726, Summerhill + Co  
**2 CELESTIAL FEAST**  
Seletti Jupiter porcelain  
dinner plate, Dia 23.5cm,  
£29, Amara

**3 STAR STRUCK**  
Santorini stars in distressed dark  
blue metal, from £7 each, Nkuku  
**4 ALL SYSTEMS GLOW**  
Black matte star light, £95, Bhs  
**5 GLITTERING COMET**  
Gold Star tea light holder, £6,

The Contemporary Home  
**6 SOCIAL SPACE**  
Menu turning table in white oak,  
£329, The Scandinavian Shop  
**7 MAP TO THE STARS**  
Diagram of the Comet of 1858  
Birch Ply Print, 1 metre sq,

£310, Surface View  
**8 FLY ME TO THE MOON**  
The Karlsson Moon wall clock,  
£84, Houseology  
**9 AFTER DARK**  
Pollux candle holder,  
£25, Habitat



## PINK AND GOLD

Sophisticated and understated, powder and blush pinks continue to be a key decorating trend this season. Add a little magic with warm metallic accents

### 1 HIDE AND CHIC

Rose gold jewellery box, £18, Joy

### 2 GILT EDGE

Criterion coasters, £18.50 for set of four, Within

### 3 SWEET SCENT

Athena ultrasonic aroma

diffuser, £70, Madebyzen.com

### 4 ORE INSPIRING

Terena room divider in antique gold finish, £1,120, Out There Interiors

### 5 ROSE BOWL

Polka vase in pastel pink, £15, Annabel James

### 6 GOLDEN HANDSHAKE

Brass hands nutcracker, £198, Jonathan Adler

### 7 ALL THAT GLITTERS

Lisbeth pendant, £175, Laura Ashley

### 8 BLUSH TONES

Lara peach linen hand and guest

towels, £15 for two, LinenMe

### 9 HAPPY HOUR

Boutique hotel cocktail shaker, £70, John Lewis

### 10 SUGAR CRUSH

The Hunter chair in Moon Earth Candy wool, £1,200, Sofa Workshop





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# Q&A

***Our resident interiors expert Rachel Leedham is on hand to answer all your decorating queries***

## WOOD-AND-STEEL DINING TABLE

**Can you tell me where Louise and Scott Coates found the beautiful dining table that takes pride of place in their kitchen-diner (p102, September 2015)?**

**ANGELA FYFE, BY EMAIL**

The Coates spotted their Plank table, by Danish company Naver ([navercollection.dk](http://navercollection.dk)), while in Copenhagen. The design has oil-burned steel legs, a solid-wood top in a choice of timbers and finishes, and it comes in five sizes, with the possibility to extend with up to two extension leaves. Prices start at £4,000 for the smallest size, H74 x W180 x D100cm, from The Conran Shop (0844 848 4000, [conranshop.co.uk](http://conranshop.co.uk)). You might also like the Darby table (shown right) by Steven Owens for Benchmark (01488 608020, [benchmarkfurniture.com](http://benchmarkfurniture.com)), which is made from either oak or elm with legs in cast iron or cast bronze. The smaller of the two sizes is H74 x W240 x D90cm, from £2,995.



**BLACK CIRCULAR MIRROR**  
**I'm trying to find a large (Dia 100cm) circular mirror with a black wooden frame. Do you know where I can get one?**  
**JESSICA KNOWLES, SHROPSHIRE**

There is something about a round mirror that brings strength to a scheme, and a black one will add an edge. Neptune's

(01793 427450, [neptune.com](http://neptune.com)) Buckingham mirror (above), Dia 100cm, £210, comes in black and white, and for an extra £55 you can choose from 28 colours. Houseology (0330 363 0330, [houseology.com](http://houseology.com)) sells a circular Deknudd Clara mirror with a frame in black lacquered wood, Dia 102cm, £582.

## KUBA CUSHIONS

**For a while I've been searching for cushions similar to those in Claire Carter's sitting room (p85, August 2015). Can you help?**  
**JOAN BEST, SOMERSET**

Claire's cushions are made using traditional Kuba cloth, a striking textile woven from the fibres of Raphia Palm that has been produced by the African Kuba people for the last four centuries. Lalibella (07930 607178, [lalibella.co.uk](http://lalibella.co.uk)) sells Kuba cushion covers, which are all unique, £55 each. Plus, all the profits are donated to the charity Give A Future, to fund educational projects in Ethiopia.



## VINYL WALL STICKER

**I love the list of family values that features on the kitchen wall in the home of Aliya and Ajit Nedungadi (p128, July 2015). Do you know how they achieved this?**

**BARBARA REED, BY EMAIL**

This is a vinyl wall sticker and a number of versions of it are readily available online, including the In This House wall sticker by Parkins Interiors (01643 709278, parkinsinteriors.com). It comes in a choice of 28 different

colours and measures H100 x W58cm, £24. The company also offers a personalised Family Rules sticker (pictured), which enables you to lay down the law! You can provide up to 10 of your own rules and the sticker is again available in 28 different colours, H120 x W58cm, £25. Alternatively, if you would like to try your hand at a completely bespoke message, contact Vinyl Lettering (020 7096 1229, vinyllettering.co.uk), which quotes around £48 for a design measuring H120 x W50cm.



## BUTTON-BACKED COMPACT SOFA

**When I saw the small sofa in Lara Wilkins' family room (p43, August 2015), I knew it would be perfect for beneath the window at one end of my narrow living room. Can you find out where it is from?**

**ASHLEY MEPHAM, BY EMAIL**

Lara's neat Bath two-seater sofa with coloured buttons and gold studs came from Graham and Green (020 8987 3700, grahamandgreen.co.uk) but it is now discontinued. For an alternative compact buttoned sofa, have a look at the small Gertie sofa (shown above in Thatch house fabric) by Loaf (0845 468 0527, loaf.com). It

comes in a variety of different fabrics and measures H87 x W155 x D85cm, from £1,195. Sofas & Stuff (0808 1783211, sofasandstuff.com) also has a neat button-backed sofa called Benbecula, which again comes in a wide choice of materials and colours. It measures H83 x W160 x D83cm, and costs from £1,513.

## POM POM TRIM

**The trim on the blind in Rebecca and Andrew Doyle's kitchen (p126, July 2015) caught my eye and I wondered if you know what it is?**

**BECKY GALBRAITH, GUILDFORD**

Perfect for enlivening window treatments, cushions and even bedspreads, this classic pom pom trim below is from Susie Watson Designs (0844 980 8185, susiewatsondesigns.co.uk). It comes in 17 colourways, including a plain ivory, and costs £15m. VV Rouleaux (020 7224 5179, vvrouleaux.com) is another good source for trimmings and sells a bobble fringe in a choice of 13 plain colours, £9.25m.



## GET IN TOUCH

## EMAIL RACHEL LEEDHAM

at 25\_beautiful\_homes@timeinc.com  
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Planning a new look for your bedroom, but don't know where to begin? Whether you're shopping for brighter bedding, or an entirely fresh scheme, you'll find all the design inspiration you need to create your most beautiful boudoir at [housetohome.co.uk/bedroom](http://housetohome.co.uk/bedroom)



## EXPERT ADVICE

From planning a layout to choosing cabinetry, or buying appliances, we've got all aspects of kitchen design covered at [housetohome.co.uk/kitchen](http://housetohome.co.uk/kitchen)



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PHOTOGRAPHY TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM

## TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

Other people's homes are always a valuable source of design ideas and inspiration, and with that in mind, we've scoured the globe to find properties packed full of looks for you to steal. Visit [housetohome.co.uk/house-tours](http://housetohome.co.uk/house-tours) and prepare to be wowed by what you find.



## FEAST OF IDEAS

The dining room is the place where we enjoy family time, entertain our friends, and share memorable moments, so take a look at the decorating ideas at [housetohome.co.uk/dining-room](http://housetohome.co.uk/dining-room) to create a scheme that you'll love to be in, meal after meal.





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Deborah

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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# PET PROJECT

*Always looking for their next challenge, Vicky and Daniel Whatford didn't realise a new home renovation would come along quite so soon*

FEATURE YSANNE BROOKS  
PHOTOGRAPHY NICHOLAS YARSLEY



## HALL

Spacious, elegant and welcoming, the entrance is home to many of Vicky's auction finds.

Mikado wallpaper, £53.50 per roll, Romo. Vintage New Orleans sideboard with cabriole legs with a Dark Honey finish, £380, Homescapes, is a good match



## INSPIRING



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Grade-II listed 18th-century lodge

**LOCATION** Surrey

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, games room, orangery, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2009

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a semi-detached nearby before here,' says Vicky.

## DINING ROOM

The rustic table and French-style chairs provide the perfect place for formal entertaining. Aged-finish large dining table, £1,425; Portofino linen dining chairs, £359 each, all Nicky Cornell, would work well in this scheme. Franklite Delft five-light chandelier, £452, Lighting at Home, is comparable. For similar curtains try the cotton rib lined pencil pleat curtains in Blueprint, from £60, John Lewis





#### KITCHEN

This room has lots of open storage for Vicky's eclectic glassware.

Bespoke cabinets, price on application, Tom Howley. Carrara 12-light pendant, £250, Bhs. Bapoto bar stool, £160, Notonthehighstreet.com



#### ORANGERY

Nature-inspired wallpaper and furnishings help bring the outside in.

John Hayworth Chesterfield sofas in Putty, £1,700 each, John Lewis. Crowe Hall Lane Paradise wallpaper by Little Greene, £71 per roll, Wallpaper Direct. Twiggy table, £195, Graham and Green





**GAMES ROOM**  
Vicky loves animals, which is evident in here – she made the cow, deer and rabbit heads herself. Flights of Fancy wallpaper mural in Pitch Blue, £148, Wallpaper Direct  
Abigail Ahern rabbit lamp, £85, Debenhams

## FAVOURITE SHOP *'I always come back with something fabulous from Sunbury Antiques Market at Kempton Park – it's a real treasure trove'*

**D**espite having only just completed a three-year renovation on their semi-detached in Surrey, Vicky and Daniel Whatford couldn't resist going to view a run-down Victorian lodge nearby after Vicky spotted it in a local property paper. 'I persuaded Daniel to come to the open day, although he wasn't very keen as we'd only just finished laying the carpets that week and hadn't yet had time to enjoy the fruits of our labours,' smiles Vicky.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, the couple were unfazed when they met another viewer outside who advised them to turn around. 'She told us not to bother as the house was a dump,' says Vicky. 'Of course, that had exactly the opposite effect and we almost ran up the driveway – we were so excited by what we might find inside.' As soon as they stepped through the front

door, it was love at first sight, even though the property was in a poor state. The couple put in a sealed bid there and then but, despite being the highest, it didn't reach the reserve, so they reluctantly walked away. However, just two months later, with the property crash in full momentum, the vendors came back to them to accept their original offer.

Undeterred by the scale of the project they had taken on, Vicky and Daniel – who owns his own building company – moved in almost immediately. 'We camped out with our three dogs in one of the bedrooms for several months,' recalls Vicky. 'Fortunately, we love our animals, plus we had lots of friends who let us use their showers.'

To make the house habitable, the couple focused on connecting the electricity and water, although Daniel had one pet project that came first. 'He fitted the hot tub in







#### MASTER BEDROOM

**Statement wallpaper and a grand bed create a focal point in here.**  
 Forêt noire wallpaper mural, £339, Made in Design. Chateau king-size bed,  
 £2,450, Graham and Green. Holly Willoughby Aimee bedding, £60;  
 Holly Willoughby Natural Caitlyn cushions, £25 each, all Bhs

**DECORATING TIP** *'If you have spacious rooms, don't be afraid to be bold with your furnishing and decorating choices – a large area can handle it'*

**BATHROOM**  
 'The washstand was one of my upcycling projects, which I revamped with chalk paint,' says Vicky.  
 Cloudsley sink, £350;  
 Avebury wall taps, £570,  
 both Fired Earth. Unit  
 painted in French Linen  
 chalk paint, £18.95 for  
 1 litre, Annie Sloan



the garden before we'd even got hot water in the house,' says Vicky. 'All the windows needed replacing, too, and because we're located very close to Heathrow, it was vital to have good, slimline double glazing fitted to keep the noise to a minimum.'

Once the basics were complete, they spent the next few months living in the house to get a feel for it. 'I think it's important to see how you use a space as sometimes you can have a very fixed idea for a room that then changes over time,' says Vicky.

Daniel did lots of the building work himself, while Vicky acted as a labourer, furniture upcycler and decorator, even painting the entire outside of the house herself. 'I originally painted it blue but it looked a bit like a Smurf's house, which was very disappointing,' she says. 'Then I spotted the exact colour we wanted on a neighbour's exterior. He very kindly took off a

piece of his plaster for me so I could have it colour matched.'

The pair also employed an architect to draw up plans for a conservatory. 'However, the building is Grade-II listed, and it took three years to get planning permission,' explains Vicky. The resulting two-storey extension now houses the master bedroom and en suite, and a new kitchen that overlooks a summer room with French windows that open out to the garden.

Now that the house is almost finished, Vicky and Daniel are ready for a well-deserved break. 'As we have both been working full-time throughout the refurbishment, it has taken longer than if we had have employed builders,' says Vicky. 'But for six years, we've worked really hard and I think we've earned a bit of a rest now, so we're planning to enjoy it. It'll be some time before I pick up another property paper again.' 25





#### GUEST BEDROOM

A panel in the middle of this space allows the bed to face the window to make the most of the views. Tivoli wallpaper in Old Olive by Cole & Son, £75 per roll, Wallpaper Direct. Versailles bed, £1,670, The French Bedroom Company, is near-identical. Red heart cushion, £34, Susie Watson Designs, is a match



#### GUEST BEDROOM

Vicky has expressed her quirkier side in this vibrant scheme.

Cow Parsley wallpaper, £72 per roll, Wallpaper Direct. Slat back rocking chair, £255, Homes Direct 365, is similar. Morris & Co Willow Bough throw, £250, House of Fraser, suits this scheme



## Insight

# DECORATING WITH WALLPAPER

*Inspired by the Whatfords' clever use of wallpaper? There are plenty of ways to create a similar scheme*

The mix of wallpaper styles used across the Whatfords' home extends to papering decorative details, too, from headboards to wall panels. It can be tricky to tie patterns and designs together, but a cohesive palette and a clever approach to scale will coordinate this bold look.

### Be bold

From florals to animal-inspired prints, the wallpapers in Vicky and Daniel's home have injected their decor with personality. To get this look, create a mood board so you can see how wallpapers work with paints and furnishings. For inspiration, Kit Kemp is an interior designer who mixes patterns with stunning effect.

Think about using one strong colour to unify the room. Bold designs can work in large spaces, but blending strong patterns with subtler tones can add a calm feel to small areas. Enhance the shape of your room with a paper that will play with scale. Horizontal prints will make a space feel wider, while vertical ones add

height. Also, as current wallpaper trends are no longer confined to just the walls, consider papering details, too, from inlaid wood panels to headboards.

### Find pattern inspiration

To discover patterns that you will not only love, but will want to live with for years, spend time gathering samples. If you are drawn to a particularly striking paper, think about using it in a smaller room where you can really make an impact.

Looking to the past for inspiration can help you to achieve original styles. The designs of William Morris, one of the founding fathers of 19th-century wallpaper design, are very fashionable and can be found on the high street. Mix vintage prints with modern furniture and light paint hues to stop them looking dated.

Bold patterns, textured papers and bespoke prints are also having their moment in the limelight. New printing techniques have made it easier to create your own designs or choose your colours, so your wallpaper is personal to you.



## PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

'Wallpaper can transform every area of your home and make ordinary furnishings look extraordinary. Try adding unexpected splashes of colour to the inside of wardrobes, to line a shelf or cover a lampshade. Or you could revamp a glass-topped coffee table by adding a sheet of wallpaper underneath.

**Another bold move is to paper your staircase risers, but don't forget to varnish them to prevent scuffing. To add a playful twist to your kitchen cabinetry, you could paper the back of a glass wall unit and display pale plates and crockery against it for instant impact.**

The feature wall is still a popular trend. It is a classic design device that draws the eye to a specific area. Marrying the paint colour of the walls with the wallpaper will ensure the contrast isn't too harsh, so the scheme feels calm and relaxing.

**Trompe l'oeil (meaning 'deceive the eye') and textured wallpapers are on-trend and create stunning two-dimensional effects, from exposed brickwork and wooden panelling to rows of library books. It is a cost-effective and eye-catching way of transforming a wall in your home and adding a splash of fun to your interiors.'**

CHARLOTTE STARLING, VELVET & DASH INTERIORS

## ADDRESS BOOK

■ Charlotte Starling of Velvet & Dash  
01300 320657, [velvet-dash.com](http://velvet-dash.com)

Interior designer who focuses on pattern to create highly original schemes

■ **Wallpaper: A History of Style and Trends** by Carolle Thibaut-Pomerantz  
£49.95, Flammarion Publishing

Be inspired by the history of wallpaper

■ **Cole & Son**

020 8442 8844, [cole-and-son.com](http://cole-and-son.com)

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All Star in Gunmetal, £78 per roll, Barneby Gates



Archive Anthology in Sweet Pea, £80 per roll, Cole & Son



Archive Anthology in Alma, £69 per roll, Cole & Son



**EXPERT EYE** 'If you like a design you should put it wherever you wish. There are no rules. You can find beautiful pattern inspiration everywhere, from flora and fauna to molecular biology and outer space'

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# SHAPE shifters

*Alja and Tom Kramberger thoughtfully modified and extended their period home, turning it from impractical to just perfect*

FEATURE & PHOTOGRAPHY  
BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE



## SITTING ROOM

The trench heating system with floor vents was an idea we saw used extensively in Holland,' says Alja. 'It's unobtrusive and very efficient.'

Raffles sofa, £2,700, DePadova. Ercol Studio couch, £3,040, Nest.co.uk. Robert Alley Bling chandelier, £1,200, Third Coast Reps. Lightyears Caravaggio floor lamp by Cecilie Manz, £668, Skandium



REPLANNED



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Edwardian red-brick terrace

**LOCATION** Dublin

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, TV room, study, cloakroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), family bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2012

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We owned a similar but smaller house nearby before buying this place,' says Alja.



### HALL

Original features impress from the moment you step through the front door.

Walls painted in Down Pipe estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



### TV ROOM

Designer pieces create a modern feel.

Metropolitan sofa, £2,500, Poliform.


Origami coffee table, £349, West Elm.

Sous Mon Arbre wall lamp, £500, Ligne Roset.

Bespoke rug from Rug Art





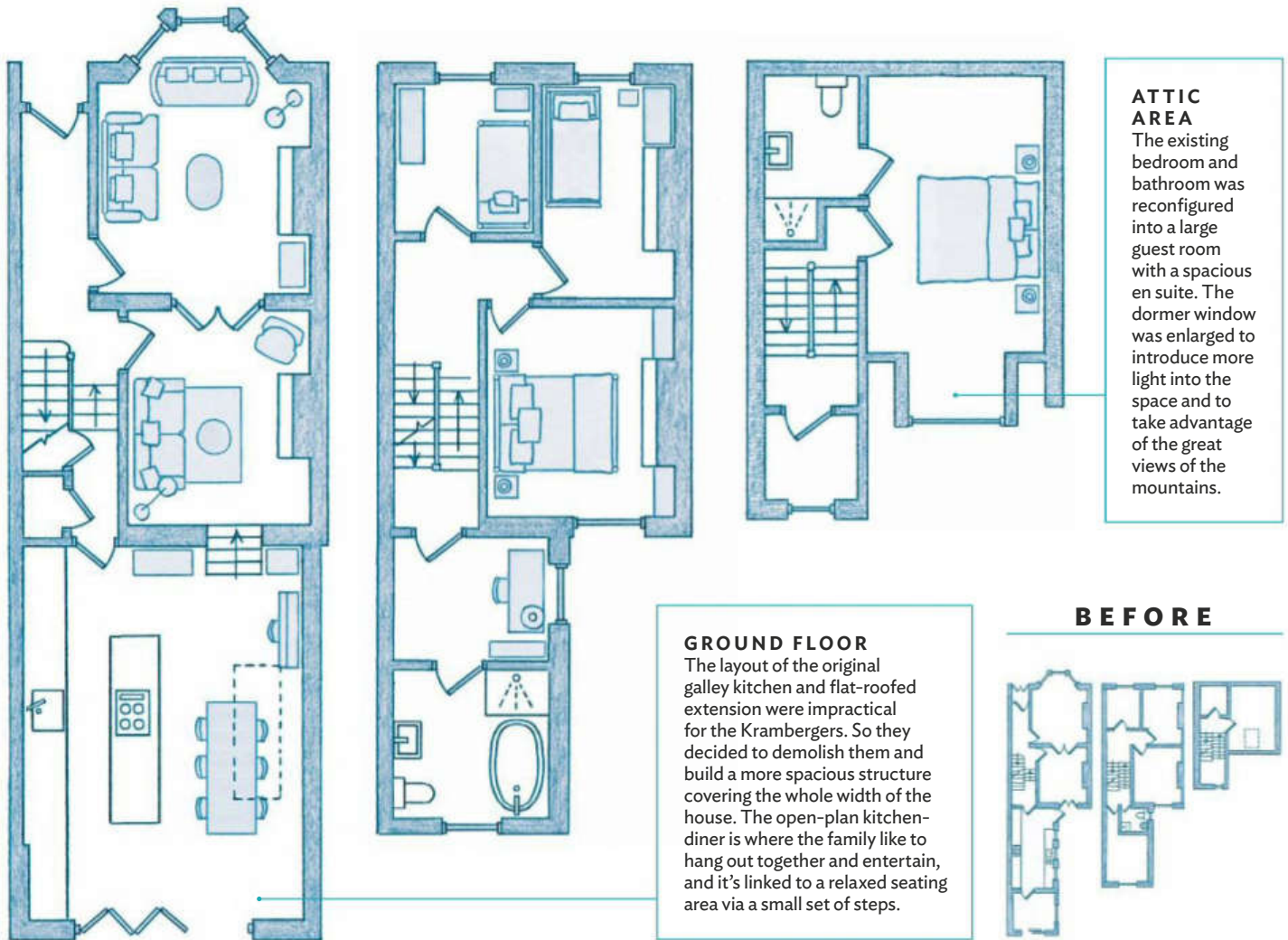


**DESIGN TIP** *'In a large kitchen-diner, fitting units on a single wall with a bench in front instead of a solid island will open up a space. And putting the hob on the workbench means you can face the dining area while cooking'*

**KITCHEN-DINER**  
**The couple loved Bulthaup's stainless steel bench so much they bought two and placed them side by side to provide ample work space.**  
Bulthaup B2 kitchen workbench and Leicht cabinetry, price on application, both McNally. Kitchen extension designed by Ambient Architecture. Globe clear ceiling light, £99, West Elm



## AFTER



As soon as Alja Kramberger and husband Tom found out the house next door was up for sale they put in an offer. 'We had grown out of our smaller Victorian home and sold it, but with the housing market uncertain at that time, we decided to rent for a year and see what would happen next,' explains Alja. 'We really liked this neighbourhood and the Edwardian red-brick architecture, so we it was the perfect place for us.'

Once the sale was complete, the couple stood in the empty rooms and could imagine their new home taking shape around them. The two large feature-filled reception areas on the ground floor just needed decorating, but the tiny galley kitchen with an extension of indeterminate use tacked on the end required a complete rethink. Alja had a big, bright, open-plan kitchen-diner that connected with the garden and living areas in mind. 'I envisaged a very contemporary kitchen for modern living, but I love the original features of the house, so it was a case of carefully blending the new with the existing,' she says. 'It was important for us to preserve the history and period atmosphere, yet bring the house into a modern era.'

Alja and Tom, who have two daughters Cáit, 11, and Mia, 6, knew all about the perils of single-glazed windows and lack of insulation through their experience living in a period property during the cold Irish winters. 'We love old houses, but they need careful planning to bring them up to modern comfort levels,' explains Alja. The couple hired architect Stefan Hoeckenreiner of Ambient Architecture to come up with a complete reconfiguration of the house. 'We'd collaborated with Stefan on a previous project

and were impressed with his ideas and creativity. Tom and I also both found him extremely easy to work with, and he was very receptive to our ideas and family's needs.'

Stefan's master plan featured a light and spacious kitchen extension with dining area added to the back of the property, opening onto the garden through a wall of folding glass doors. 'Now we have an outdoor room on warm days, and lovely uninterrupted views of the garden from the whole ground-floor level,' adds Alja. The middle reception area has become a TV room, which connects to the sunken kitchen via a set of steel stairs. As it no longer has a window to the exterior, it was important to fill it with as much light as possible borrowed from elsewhere. This was achieved by installing large roof lights and clerestory lighting in the new extension, and replacing solid timber panels in the doors between the two living areas with glass.

On the floor above, the layout of the three family bedrooms remained unchanged. However, the couple decided to extend and relocate the bathroom to take advantage of the half-level's sunny southwest-facing orientation, and also add a study and laundry room. And by remodelling the attic area, Stefan created enough space for a bright and generous-sized bedroom with en-suite bathroom. 'We needed a comfortable guest room for our friends and family visiting from my native Germany,' explains Alja.

'We planned everything very carefully so that the house would flow naturally, be easy to use and comfortable to live in,' concludes Alja. 'But I have to admit, it surpassed even our expectations.'

**FAVOURITE ITEM** *'I love the Patricia Urquiola bathtub. I spent a lot of time planning this room because I wanted it to be contemporary, elegant and calm but with an element of quirkiness, too. Once I found the bath, I based the whole scheme around it'*



**ATTIC BEDROOM**  
A pale palette and minimalist styling helps maximise space and light. Nordli chest of two drawers, £55, would work here; Forså table lamp, £15, both Ikea



**STUDY**  
This offers a tranquil place for Tom and Alja to work. Billy/Oxberg bookcase, £170, Ikea, has this look





## BATHROOM

**The freestanding statement bathtub is the standout star of this luxurious, pared-back scheme.**  
Vieques bath by Patricia Urquiola, £4,500, Agape. Try Carrara polished marble tiles, from £57.94sq m, Mandarin Stone



## MASTER BEDROOM

**Thanks to the southwest-facing window, Alja could indulge herself in her favourite shade of grey.**

Industrial Task table lamp, £79, West Elm. Henley bedstead, £475, Feather & Black, would suit this scheme



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# COUNTRY ESCAPE

*Stephen Ireton and Dan Moore stumbled across an idyllic village home and turned it into the perfect weekend retreat*

FEATURE KATHY HURST | PHOTOGRAPHY MARK ASHBEE

## KITCHEN-DINER

'With its high ceiling and glazed doors, this space is light and airy,' says Dan.

Rustic oak table, £425; chapel chairs, from £50 each, all Peppermill Antiques. Walls painted in Slaked Lime deep intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene

## INSPIRING



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Cotswold cottage, built in the 1850s

**LOCATION** Gloucestershire

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2014

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We also own a house in Dulwich, south London,' explains Stephen.





#### KITCHEN-DINER

This layout has been cleverly adapted to suit the couple's lifestyle - they now spend most of their time in here.

Cabinets painted in Normandy Grey eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. Elstead Cromwell five-light ceiling pendant, £324, Lighting Direct, is comparable



A weekend bike ride in the Cotswolds led Stephen Ireton and his husband Dan Moore to their country cottage in Gloucestershire. 'We'd been searching for a place for four years and had become disheartened after our dream home fell through,' says Stephen. 'But one day, when looking for a bite to eat, we discovered this house – ideally located opposite a pub.' They arranged a viewing there and then, and the pair were smitten. 'The village is stunning, nestled among undulating hills,' he continues. 'We'd made up our minds as soon as we walked through the door.'

Even though there were issues with damp and the interior was unappealing – with walls painted in bright reds and yellows – the

couple could see the property's potential. 'It was pretty ghastly, with carpets that wouldn't have looked out of place in a 1970s TV sitcom, but it had a lovely kitchen with doors opening onto the garden – we were hooked,' says Dan. With demanding jobs in the city, neither Stephen nor Dan were able to be as hands-on as they'd envisaged. They ended up hiring interior designers and project managers, Helen Holmes and Jane Lanyon of JH Designs. 'We just didn't have the time to devote to the restoration,' says Stephen. 'But we were very involved in the decision making – we just needed someone else to take the reins.'

After the house was gutted and a damp-proof membrane was fitted, work could start on the interior. Walls were replastered and beams

**DESIGN TIP** *'It's important to bear in mind the location of a property – country homes need to be able to cope with muddy boots and dogs alike'*





sandblasted, original flagstone floors were cleaned and floorboards were stripped back. When it came to the colour scheme, Helen and Jane suggested a chalky off-white palette to provide an elegant backdrop for statement pieces, including striking denim sofas, oversized lamps and contemporary artwork. 'If I'd been designing the house myself I'd have probably taken the lead from the look of our London home,' says Stephen. 'But with Helen and Jane's help, we've created somewhere with a masculine air that feels at ease in its countryside setting.'

This eye for a restful, pared-back style continues in the bedrooms, which are decorated in taupe and dusky blue, while the bathrooms have an understated sophistication with limestone basins and wooden units. In the open-plan kitchen, which features a lofty vaulted ceiling and

exposed beams, existing cabinetry was updated with a coat of paint in a delicate grey-green shade. Furnished with a timeworn oak table, wicker chairs and handcrafted iron chandeliers, it is Stephen and Dan's favourite room. 'It's a great space where we can work, cook or listen to the radio,' says Dan. Throughout the project, the designers scoured antiques fairs and auctions, uploading photos to Pinterest for the couple's approval. 'It's meant we've ended up with a more eclectic look than if we'd bought everything on the high street,' says Stephen.

The pair put the success of their renovation down to a relaxed approach and taking care to get things right. 'We spend as much time here as possible,' says Dan. 'We love cycling along the country lanes and finding new places to eat – which is just how it all started.' 25

DESIGN TIP 'Push yourself out of your comfort zone and let go of what you're used to'



**1 GUEST BEDROOM**  
'We went for a French look here, with blue linen and white furniture,' says Stephen. Montrose throw, £89, India Jane. Mandalay lamp, £145; blue shade, £56, both Pooky

**2 BATHROOM**  
Sleek furnishings give a modern edge. Matt brass round mirror, £100, John Lewis. Sparta honed travertine basin, £99; teak washstand, £295, both Mandarin Stone

**3 GUEST BEDROOM**  
A simple painted Shaker-style peg rail creates a quirky display space. Bramley Blue chest of drawers, £950, Laura Ashley, would work here. Penelope lamp in black and copper, £49, John Lewis

**4 MASTER BEDROOM**  
Soft taupes make for a restful space. Indah double duvet cover set, £50, John Lewis. Curtains in Stockholm Stripe Lime, £48m, Vanessa Arbuthnott





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INSPIRING



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Edwardian detached with 1950s additions

**LOCATION** West Sussex

**ROOMS** Sitting room, drawing room, kitchen-diner, dining room, five bedrooms, three bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2010

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY** 'We lived in a detached Victorian house in London before moving here,' explains Georgina.



# SPECIAL BLEND

Earthy tones teamed with natural fabrics give a pared-back but luxe look in Georgina and Mark Znowski's transformed period home

**FEATURE** CLARE WALLACE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** FIONA WALKER-ARNOTT



## SITTING ROOM

A classic neutral scheme is personalised with quirky furnishings and sumptuous textures.

Classic Howard sofa, £3,800, 1gigi. Eames elliptical white coffee table, £1,650, The Conran Shop. Six-light gold chandelier with bohemian crystals, £1,900, Italian Lighting Centre, is similar





#### DINING ROOM

A traditional interior has been given a modern flavour with statement fabrics and artwork.

Rococo oval table, £1,900; Rococo chairs, £430 each, all Gustavian. Floor painted in Shaded White floor paint, £58 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

**DESIGN ADVICE** *'To achieve a successful remodel make sure you know where you want your main living spaces and always be clear on what your vision is'*



#### KITCHEN-DINER

Natural materials add a slightly rustic tone to this sleek scheme.

Weathered oak bar stool, £145, Cox & Cox. Reclaimed pine butcher's block, £570, Shabby Store, suits this look





**GARDEN**  
 'This is an ideal spot to relax in while the children are playing,' says Georgina. Devon recycled bench is comparable, £400, The Garden Furniture Centre. Sissinghurst wooden trough planter, £45, UK Garden Supplies, would work well here

When Georgina Znowski and her husband Mark first viewed this property in West Sussex, it wasn't a case of love at first sight. The house, originally Edwardian, had a 1950s extension, and the resulting mixture of styles made it feel dated and impractical.

At the time the couple were living in London, but with a young family to bring up, which now includes William, 9, Lottie, 7, and Henry, 5, they were keen to find a place in a more rural setting. 'Having the countryside and the sea on our doorstep was an important factor,' explains Georgina. 'When we first viewed this house, it was hard to see beyond the work that would need doing, but as soon as we walked into the sitting room and saw the spectacular views, we were sold.'

Luckily Georgina, a property developer, and Mark, who owns a recruitment company, took the renovation in their stride. 'The building was structurally sound but what we needed to do was extensively

remodel,' says Georgina. 'The idea was to reveal the views surrounding the house and bring them inside. We started by overhauling the exterior, and installed new, larger windows to replace the small UPVC versions that had latterly been added. We then reworked the internal flow of rooms, laid new flooring throughout and replaced the staircase, all with a traditional, but pared-back feel.'

The pair love antiques and unusual pieces, but prefer a clean, contemporary setting to display them in. 'We were inspired by the streamlined aesthetic of Ibiza beach houses, both inside and out,' says Georgina. 'With that in mind, we designed the interior and exterior simultaneously.' A generous limestone terrace and seating area now leads from the living spaces straight into the garden, which has been landscaped to enjoy the sweeping Sussex scenery.

Inside, a neutral palette of stones, greys and earthy tones serves as a calming backdrop. Original features including fireplaces, cornicing and wooden flooring have been restored, and blend seamlessly with new,



contemporary additions. Georgina's favourite feature is the charming window seat in the sitting room. 'It was already here when we moved in, albeit flanked by faux-Grecian columns,' she says. 'We removed them and gave the seat a facelift. Now it's the perfect place to relax with a book.'

With family living in mind, a combination of style and practicality was an essential ingredient, and so the couple adopted a less-is-more approach. In the kitchen, sleek, streamlined handleless cabinetry was fitted, which was then softened by rustic, freestanding pieces and a large island that is perfect for family members to gather round. In the

living areas, modern yet classic elements have been introduced, including a surfboard-style coffee table. Upstairs, the couple have opted for a laid-back French boudoir look, with inviting daybeds, textured linens and simple-painted furniture.

The finished result is a far cry from the mishmash of features that Georgina and Mark first encountered. 'Remodelling a home is never an easy task, especially when it's a case of blending a mixture of architectural styles,' she explains. 'But we love what we've managed to achieve here. Most importantly, we feel we've reunited the house with its natural setting, and that has been an absolute thrill.'

**DESIGN INSPIRATION** *'Our ideas come from magazines, browsing antiques shops and scouring flea markets and car boot sales'*

**MASTER BEDROOM**  
Earthy shades and fluid shapes characterise this calming scheme. Provençal upholstered sleigh bed, £1,295, The French Bedroom Company, is near-identical



**BATHROOM**  
The fresh and stylish decor in here is testament to the couple's pared-back style. Aegean bath, £1,500, The Albion Bath Company. Linear white gloss tiles, £43.67m sq, Topps Tiles



**CHILDREN'S BEDROOM**  
A practical bunk bed saves on space. Pavilion Gray estate eggshell, £52 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, is a similar colour to the bed



**GUEST BEDROOM**  
Glamorous touches have been added in here. Holly Willoughby quilted square throw, £100; and quilted square cushion, £25, both Bhs, have this look



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# LOST and FOUND

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY ALISTAIR NICHOLLS





## REPLANNED



### HOME TRUTHS

#### THE PROPERTY

Detached house built in 1912

**LOCATION** York

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, family room, cloakroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2012

#### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a 1930s house in Oxford before this,' says Susan.

#### SITTING ROOM

'We painted one wall in a mushroom shade to highlight the moulding on the corners of the chimney breast,' says Susan. Pumblechook super emulsion, £41.50 for 2.5 litres; Abbey Tintern floor tiles, £90sq m; both Fired Earth. Similar original fireplaces can be found at 20th Century Fires. For a rug like this one, try ColourMatch plain dye rug in pink, £15, Argos



#### HALL

Susan made the delicate pendant light from Perspex so it wasn't too heavy for the original ceiling.

For a comparable design try Leaves Lumen Center, £311, Made in Design. For similar floor tiles, look at the Eastlake 70 patterns, from £263.31sq m, London Mosaic

For Susan Bradley and her partner Simon Onion, their Edwardian house renovation has been about creating an authentic family home surrounded by belongings that they love. 'We kept the original bones of the house but our plan wasn't to stick specifically to the period,' says Susan, a furniture and homewares designer. 'It was more important that we created a warm and welcoming space using furniture, treasures and pictures that we already owned which meant something to us both.'

As both are designers, it isn't surprising to see Susan and Simon's own work dotted around their home alongside cherished Mid-Century furniture they've collected over the years. 'We're passionate about classic Ercol and Eames,' Susan explains. 'The style of both is so simple and timeless that the pieces fitted perfectly into our home.'

The couple were similarly straightforward in their way of thinking while house-hunting, focusing their search on a property with a big garden within striking distance of York. In summer 2012 they found this large detached property in a village just outside the city. It had stood empty for 40 years and was being sold at auction along with half an acre of garden and a rundown bungalow, ticking all of the couples' boxes. It was a golden opportunity but quite clearly a project that came with responsibilities. 'The house was crammed with junk, and ivy was growing

Empty for decades, Susan Bradley and Simon Onion's Edwardian home is now imaginatively restored in a style that spans design genres





#### KITCHEN

'We only painted the lower half of the walls so the grey didn't swamp the room,' says Susan. Cupboards and walls painted in Down Pipe estate eggshell, £21 for 750ml, Farrow & Ball. For similar tongue-and-groove, try Easipanel standard panels 915 x 516mm, £9.29 each, Homebase. The 18-inch Opal coolie shade, £75, John Moncrieff, is a match

**DESIGN TIP** *'Explore local craftspeople; bespoke doesn't have to be*



#### FAMILY ROOM

In this comfortable extension to the original Edwardian structure, Susan chose a rustic brick-and-oak design for the new fireplace. Ektorp sofas, £475 each, Ikea. Pendant shade in Harvest Hare fabric, £54m, St Jude's. Log rack, £79; Stag, £200, both Susan Bradley Design





*unaffordable – our kitchen was handmade by a joiner for a few thousand pounds'*



out of the windows but the structural integrity was remarkably intact and so were all the original features,' says Susan. 'We felt a sense of duty to save and restore the place to its former glory.'

So when the auction day rolled around, the couple went armed – very sensibly – with their top price written on a piece of paper. After a few tense minutes, the hammer went down in their favour. There was no going back and within a matter of weeks they'd taken ownership. The plan was to build a double-storey side extension and a friend well versed in the local planning law thought they had a good chance. Happily this was the case and the whole project got underway in February 2013.

One of the first jobs was to protect the original floor tiles in the hallway with plywood. Susan and Simon also wanted to keep the staircase and ceilings pristine. The builders painstakingly removed picture rails, cornicing and architraves to run new cables and pipes, reinstating them to where they had been. It was these ornamental features, and the couple's collection of vintage furniture, that encouraged them to paint most of the rooms in brilliant white. 'I like the concept of an art gallery where a white backdrop lets the art speak for itself,' Susan explains. 'I wanted the original features to remain prominent and our pictures and furniture to add colour rather



**MASTER EN SUITE**  
 'We used the exact same tiles and paint colour as in our previous bathroom as the colours match each other well.' Urban Slate tiles in Grey Green, £45sq m; walls painted in Graphite matt emulsion, £50 for 2.5 litres, both Fired Earth. For a similar basin try the Luna, £119, Better Bathrooms



than having to fight against coloured walls.' Susan, in particular, has a passion for classic chairs. 'I love our Eames rocking chair and the Eames plywood chair we have in our bedroom.'

Simplicity is key to the textiles which the couple have chosen to furnish their home with, too – mostly handprinted designs, inspired by nature, they reflect the surrounding countryside rather than the age of the house. 'I like that they're often taken from illustrations which were later translated into fabric and wallpaper patterns' says Susan.

The renovation took eight months to complete, with a side extension so sympathetic it's difficult to tell that it's a new addition. 'We were careful not to make the extension a pastiche of the old,' says Susan. 'We carried the same style of picture rail and skirting and chose traditional French windows rather than modern bifolds. Susan reflects that the whole experience has been very satisfying – for themselves and the neighbours. 'People say how nice it is to see the house looking loved again,' she says. 'We feel that our home has a real sense of "us", full of treasures that we love and which make us happy.' 25

**LAST WORD** *'Don't let the history of your house dictate its look and feel – your home should feel comfy and make you happy'*

#### MASTER BEDROOM

'I chose fabrics with nature prints for our bedroom to reference the countryside views we can see outside,' says Susan. Vitra DCW Eames Plywood chair in natural ash, £1,071, Nest, is a new match. Sparrows On Aerials cushion (on chair), £110, Charlene Mullen. Throw made from leaf-pattern fabric by Spira, £50m, Hus and Hem





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# CREAM of the CROP

*When Noel and Dee Kelly bought an idyllic lodge, it was the run-down dairymaid's cottage on the grounds that was their biggest challenge*

FEATURE PENNY CRAWFORD-COLLINS | PHOTOGRAPHY PHILIP LAUTERBACH




## SITTING ROOM

**The architectural features are the focus of this simply-styled room.**

Boston large sofa, £599, Tesco Direct, is a good match. Koldby cow hide, £180; find similar small vases, from 60p, all Ikea. Fonthill mirror, £389, The Chandelier & Mirror Company, would work here





## DISTINCTIVE



### HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** One of four cottages, which were formerly part of a working farm dating back to 1840

**LOCATION** Wicklow, Ireland

**ROOMS** Hall, kitchen-diner, sitting room with dining area, three bedrooms (all en suite)

**PURCHASED** 2004

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We lived in a cottage nearby before moving here,' says Noel.

Back in 2004, when Noel and Dee Kelly first viewed Coolattin Lodge near the village of Shillelagh in Wicklow, they were seduced by the picturesque stone cottages to the rear, which had formally been farm staff quarters. Although they were in a very bad state of disrepair, the buildings themselves were full of nostalgic character. Fortunately the Kellys were no strangers to the world of renovation.

'I had spent a great deal of time researching period artefacts for our previous property,' explains Noel, 'so I had good contacts with various salvage yards, which was an excellent starting point for the project.'

The plan was to preserve and restore the original fabric of the buildings, hoping that they could eventually be used as holiday homes. And the first dwelling the couple restored was the dairymaid's cottage, with its exposed stone walls, wooden beams and characterful roof trusses made with timber from the adjacent woodland.

'First of all, the cottage needed to be re-roofed, rewired and replumbed. Then central heating was fitted,' says Noel. 'Most of the windows were rotten, as were the floorboards, which were covered in about six inches of pigeon droppings!'

The couple salvaged as many of the existing windows as they could and for the rest, found a joiner who could replicate their original Georgian style. 'We also





### 1 & 3 KITCHEN

**This bright space combines old with new – a modern range and rustic cabinets work perfectly together.**

For classic-style kitchen cabinets try Cooke and Lewis' Woburn range, from £68 for a standard 500mm door; and Duel Fuel range cooker, £675, is a good match, both B&Q. Reclaimed terracotta tiles, £109.82sq m, Fired Earth, are similar

### 2 HALL

**This charming space provides a light and welcoming entrance to the cottage.**

Marie console table, £251, Within, is comparable. Large wire basket, £12.99, H&M, is a contemporary alternative





**FAVOURITE  
ITEM**  
*'We love the original quarry tiles in the kitchen – we're so pleased we managed to clean them up and keep them'*



**BATHROOM**  
**The couple have created a sense of space in this compact area.**  
Archgres light beige tiles, £35.21 for box of three, Tile Market, give the same look



**BEDROOM**  
**This elegant piece was picked up at auction.**  
French oak dressing chest of drawers, £395, The French Depot, is a good match

sourced reclaimed wood from a local 1840s building that was in the process of being demolished, and used it for the flooring,' says Noel. 'It's beautiful.'

Noel planned the layout of the cottage, which now has a spacious, traditional-style kitchen and a large sitting room with French windows

that open onto the courtyard, allowing the property to be flooded with light. When it came to decor, the couple aimed for a rustic element true to the charm of the old building. 'We tried to keep everything as neutral as possible so that the stonework would still stand out,' explains Noel, who found cabinets

for the kitchen in a local salvage yard and then fitted them himself.

'It was hard work, but we're thrilled with the results, and we now rent the dairymaid's cottage out,' says Noel. 'Plus this restoration spurred us on to tackle the other cottages. It's great to see these beautiful dwellings spring back to life.' 25



**BEDROOM**  
**The pale shades and exposed stone create a relaxed and tranquil feel.**  
Lille bedstead, £749, Feather & Black, is a close match. Lenda curtains, £20 a pair, Ikea. Cable knit throw, £120, Jigsaw, would work well here



# Insight

## CONVERTING AN OUTBUILDING

*Planning a conversion like Noel and Dee Kelly? Take the headache out of the process with these tips*

Taking on the challenge of converting an outbuilding – whether it's a stable block or a barn – can result in a unique, characterful home. But the planning and design process can be complicated.

### Planning permission

Once you've tracked down a potential project, it's worth familiarising yourself with your local authority's planning guidelines. You'll be able to access useful information online, which will inform any pre-planning discussions.

Generally speaking, planners prefer not to see significant alterations to the external appearance of the building – this can curtail the size and number of windows and doors. There may also be limitations to the style of cladding you can use and it may be necessary to prove that there is no commercial need for the building before permission for conversion

is granted. As neglected outbuildings can often be home to wildlife, a protected species survey can be requested.

### Design choices

Most outbuildings will not be connected to the mains or sewerage – something which can further add to the cost of conversion. However, starting from scratch brings with it the possibility of exploring eco-friendly energy systems such as heat pumps, which are ideally suited to underfloor heating. Although such technologies require a greater outlay than conventional systems, they can be a sensible investment.

To combat the poor levels of light associated with outbuildings, it's worth considering glazed floor-to-ceiling gable ends, roof lights and cart doors. Equally, it's possible to capitalise on the airy feel of barns by creating double-height entrance halls. Or if you want to add height, strip away ceilings to expose the roof space.



### PROFESSIONAL ADVICE



'In my experience, the key to a successful conversion is to look to the property itself for inspiration. Every home has a story to tell – no matter if it's a grand historical

house with wood panelling and decorative plasterwork or a humble barn. It is extremely satisfying to breathe new life into buildings that might otherwise have gone to ruin.

**Do what you can to make the bones of your property the best they can be. Sometimes this involves stripping away previous decor to see what lies beneath.**

Planning concerns permitting, don't be afraid to remove elements that don't work for your lifestyle. Just because something is historical doesn't mean it can't change.

**One thing that can be transformative for an outbuilding is opening up ceilings to expose the rafters, making the most of the height. It's also acceptable to add new layers such as limewashed timber cladding, bifold doors and large windows, especially as many outbuildings have poor light.**

It's important to be sensitive to the surroundings and the character of a building, but it is possible to rejuvenate them if you have a sympathetic eye and incorporate contemporary materials where appropriate.'

EMMA SIMS-HILDITCH, INTERIOR DESIGNER

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Practical shelving makes use of the wall space

Restoring original flooring adds charm and character

By stripping away the roof, rooms feel larger and lighter

### EXPERT EYE

*'Planning regulation for outbuildings can be complex and varies from one authority to another. Essentially, there is a greater chance of success if the structure is in a residential area and if you're able to show that it's worthy of retention. For example, an old oak-framed barn will often be looked upon more favourably than a concrete piggery'*

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# SPARK *OF* GENIUS

*A fire almost stopped Anouska Lancaster and Greig Scott from buying their home, but it meant they could start from scratch*

FEATURE CAROLINE FOSTER | PHOTOGRAPHY NICK HUGGINS



## DISTINCTIVE



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Detached Victorian house

**LOCATION** Berkshire

**ROOMS** Hall, drawing room, sitting room, kitchen/family room, study, utility room, cloakroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, three bathrooms, attic snug

**PURCHASED** 2014

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before we moved in together, I lived in a house in Surrey and Greig lived nearby,' says Anouska.

Buying a house can often involve stressful setbacks, but interior designer Anouska Lancaster, who runs her own company, Noushka Design, and her fiancé Greig Scott, didn't anticipate a dramatic turn of events as they exchanged contracts on the Victorian country property they had set their hearts on. 'Greig and I were bringing our families together and looking for a suitable place for our children Kai, 11, Harry,

11, Maddie, 9, and Miabella, 9,' explains Anouska. 'We came across this beautiful house online and felt it was the perfect family home for us, although it needed extensive refurbishment.'

Just as everything seemed to be moving smoothly towards their completion date, the couple received some shocking news. 'We called round to measure up rooms and the homeowner told us that there had been a serious fire on the top floor and

## FAMILY ROOM

**'Colours work best with dark tones. I love the sultry feel of this space,' says Anouska.**

Hackney Empire wallpaper in Midnight Stripe, £148 per roll; Hamond Lampshade, £385; blinds in Hackney Empire cotton satin in Midnight, £75m, all House of Hackney. Artwork, £4,850, Louise Dear





**SITTING ROOM**  
**Quirky accessories in bright colours bring character to this neutral backdrop.**

Love light-up fairground bulb sign, £795, Goodwin & Goodwin. For a Scaffold Pole coffee table like this one try House Junkie, £550. Walls painted in Charleston Gray estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

it was completely burnt out,' says Anouska. 'It left us in a quandary about whether to proceed or not.'

After some careful thought, they decided to go ahead and expanded their renovation plans. 'Once we had completed, we stayed with Greig's sister for a month while the builders ripped everything out,' explains Anouska. 'They took the top floor back to its bare bones and added three large dormers. The attic was also insulated to create a cosy loft den for the children.' While

the house was still a work in progress, the family moved in, taking up residence in the old kitchen. 'To call it turmoil is an understatement,' she adds.

The couple hoped that some of the rooms would just require decorating, but it soon became apparent that the entire interior needed attention. 'Walls had been papered over for so many years that when they were stripped, great chunks of plasterwork fell off,' says Anouska. 'It made us wonder what we'd signed up for.' As the months passed, the build progressed

**KITCHEN**

**Anouska cleverly turned an old Singer sewing machine lid into a vintage-style bread bin.** Cabinetry painted in Cornforth White; island painted in Railings, both modern emulsion, £42 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Bell jars, from £13 each, Graham and Green, are a match







**LANDING**  
 'I like to make transitional spaces a talking point, which I think I've achieved here,' says Anouska.

Etienne shabby chic painted chest of drawers, £324, Woodpecker Interiors, is near-identical. Butterfly Garden wallcovering by Osborne & Little, £55m, Jane Clayton. Abigail Ahern green parrot lamps, £85 each, Debenhams

and an extension was built to house the new kitchen/family room. Original fireplaces were revealed and old ceiling roses and cornices were restored.

'Eventually, I had a blank canvas and could start on the interior design,' says Anouska. 'I wanted a bright, fun scheme, and the trick is to begin with a classic palette and clean lines, then give it a boost with a bold shade, unusual objects or vivid prints.' Anouska unified the house by laying the same carpet throughout, with vinyl flooring on the

ground floor in a matching hue. A neutral palette then provides the backdrop in each room, giving a sense of cohesion. 'Colour needn't be crazy; layering tones and textures keeps the look controlled.'

Finally, the family is able to relax and enjoy their new home, but not without plans for future tweaks. 'I'm a strong believer that if you love something then you should have it in your house,' reflects Anouska. 'I never see interiors as being forever, but more as a chapter in a home's story.'

**DESIGN TIP**  
*'Never shy away from a secondary accent hue – it will add an extra punch'*



**MASTER BEDROOM**  
 This display of plates is a striking alternative to other artwork.

Plates, from around £20 each, Liberty. Frank Hudson Chesterfield bed, £4,200, Amazing Emporium, is comparable





## BE INSPIRED BY THE REST OF ANOUSKA & GREIG'S HOME



**HALL**  
Bold accessories combine with rustic furniture. Bevelled sunburst mirror, £250, Wayfair, is similar



**DRAWING ROOM**  
This space has a gentleman's club vibe. Chimney painted in Down Pipe estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



**KITCHEN**  
Umbrellas provide an intriguing focal point. Scalloped pagoda umbrella, £25, Brollies Galore



**HARRY'S ROOM**  
Smart upcycling creates a laid-back scheme that's ideal for a teenager. Catherine Lansfield Rock UK duvet cover, £19 for a single, Littlewoods





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#### SITTING ROOM

**'With five children and three dogs, our sitting room furniture has certainly stood the test of time.'**

For modular sofas like these ones, try Norsborg range, Ikea, from £375 for a two-seater sofa. Fresh floor lamp, £62, B&Q. Classic mohair throw, The Wool Company, £69 is similar

# KEEPING IT FRESH

*Renovating an oast house was a challenge that Cathy and Ian Miles rose to*





#### INSPIRING



#### HOME TRUTHS

##### THE PROPERTY

Oast house, built in 1890

##### LOCATION

Kent

##### ROOMS

Hall, sitting room, drawing room, dining area, kitchen, seven bedrooms (four en suite), bathroom

##### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we lived in a house in a neighbouring village,' says Cathy.



#### STUDY AREA

Alcoves provide useful storage for Cathy's workspace.

Caspian desk, £89, Kendall chair, £188 is a match, both Staples. Chloe lamp, £79, Marks & Spencer is similar



#### HALL

Saffron-coloured cushions adorn an antique oak settle by an elegant arched doorway.

Textured chevron cushion, £25; Figueria cushion, £30, both John Lewis

FEATURE MANDY NOLAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON

*creatively as their children grew up*



# DINING AREA

A feature wall with bold, coloured paper plus matching accessories create a contemporary feel.

Bari dining table £1,399, BoConcept.  
Arne Jacobsen-style chairs, £150 each,  
Design Icons. Itavilli wallpaper, £73  
per roll, Wallpaper Direct



**LAST WORD** *'I love settling down with a pile of magazines, searching for ideas and hunting for things that will help me to achieve the look I want. Our home is definitely a work in progress'*



# KITCHEN

A long, gently curving breakfast bar provides plenty of space for sitting, drinking coffee and chatting or prepping for dinner. Aster Cucine cabinets and island, from £185 for a 600mm base unit, Inhouse





Moving from London to a pretty village in Kent in 1997, Cathy and Ian Miles embraced country life wholeheartedly. 'We chose an area with a pub and church, and great schools,' says Cathy. 'There was one

drawback to the house we bought – our daughter Sophie, now 22, was a keen rider and wanted to keep horses. It was impossible to stable them where we were, so I started looking for houses with more land, and I convinced Ian that it would be cheaper to move than it would be to pay livery fees.'

A converted oast house dating back to 1890 proved to be just what they were looking for. Not only did it have plenty of land – with 30 sheep to keep the grass under control – it also had a spacious interior perfect for a family with five children.

## LIFESTYLE INFLUENCES

The house needed substantial renovation and Cathy and Ian were confident that the building would respond to a more contemporary style.

If there is one room that they feel defines their style philosophy, it's the kitchen. A long curving island provides a striking focal point, cleverly designed so that when they were small, the children could do their homework facing Cathy while she prepared the evening meal.

A large, decorative mirror behind the Aga is an eye-catching feature and was strategically placed to give Cathy a view of the children if they were playing in the garden. 'There were some obstacles,' admits Cathy. 'The supplier of our kitchen went out of business before it was fitted, which was stressful. Fortunately, we managed to persuade the manufacturer to deliver the units direct to us.'

Some years later, as the children began to leave home, the couple were on the brink of downsizing when they hit on the idea of starting a simple bed and breakfast. They developed the concept in stages. 'As and when the children moved out, we renovated another room,' explains Cathy.

But this special house remains very much a family home – with Archie, 17, Oscar, 15, and Sophie, all still living here, and with lots of gatherings of loved ones. 'Next I want to redecorate the drawing room,' says Cathy. 'We always have a project on the go, but that's just the way I like it.'

### 1 BATHROOM

Cathy and Ian added underfloor heating here. They kept the original bath and found wall and floor tiles similar to the natural stone.

Aspendos Travertine tiles, £48sq m, Stonell. Skurar flower pot, £2, Ikea is a match

### 2 GUEST BEDROOM

The bedspread came from a souk in Morocco. Super-king Lit Bateau bed, £899, Tasha Interiors. House throw, £39, John Lewis, is a similar shade. Prestigious Textiles Rise wallpaper, £81m, Wallpapers of Distinction



### GUEST BEDROOM

'We kept this room simple but added a splash of glamour on a feature wall,' says Cathy.

Obsession wallpaper, £34.50 per roll, Wallpapers of Distinction. Chartwell hot pink pillowcases, £3 for pack of two, B&Q are a match



### BATHROOM

'I was thrilled to discover this space-saving bath,' says Cathy.

Tubby Tub, £1,561, The Albion Bath Company. St Aubin limestone tiles with honed finish, £58sq m, Stonell





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# PERFECT PLANNING

Mairead and David Sinnott remodelled a small 1950s bungalow, and the result is a colourful family home filled with modern artwork

FEATURE PENNY CRAWFORD-COLLINS | PHOTOGRAPHY PHILIP LAUTERBACH

## HALL

### Statement flooring creates a bold entrance.

Polished black-and-white floor tiles, £75.14sq m, Topps Tiles, would suit this setting. Chennai dining table, £223, Wayfair, is a good alternative. Solar Opposite rug, £602, Andrew Ludick at Ceadogán Rugs



## REPLANNED



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Extended 1950s bungalow

**LOCATION** Wexford, Ireland

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, four bedrooms, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 1995

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'Before moving here, we lived in a house in Gorey,' says Mairead.





### SITTING ROOM

This vibrant wall colour adds drama and personality.

Walls painted in Deep Ultramarine flat matt, £35.93 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. Beckford storage trunks are near-identical, £305, Sweetpea & Willow. Lime Sun rug, £602, Andrew Ludick at Ceadogán Rugs



### KITCHEN

A ceiling-hung clock saves on wall space. Distressed round clock, £69, Shabby Store, is comparable



### HALL

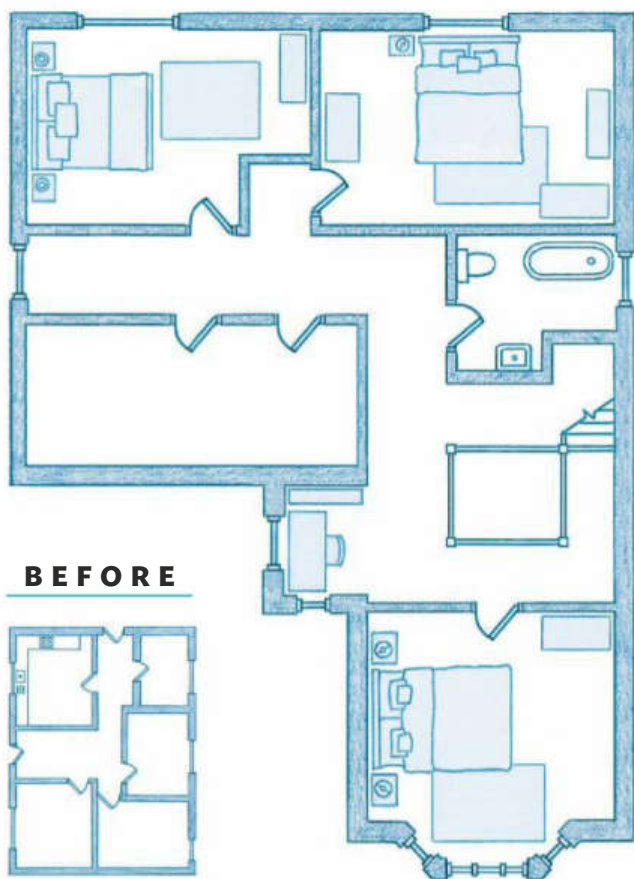
Dark wood antique pieces look striking against neutral walls.

For a table like this one try the mahogany two-drawer console table, £271, Wayfair

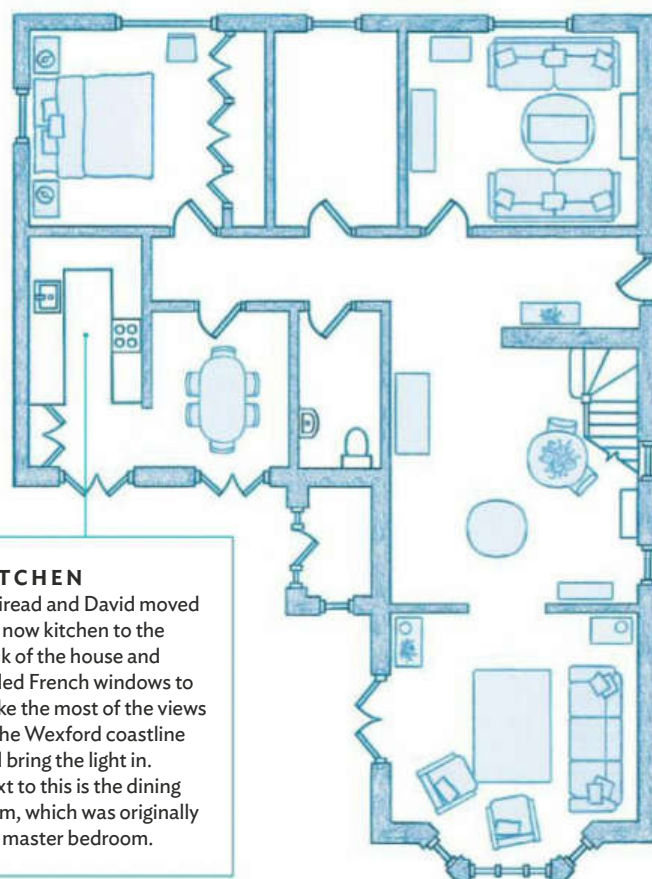


## AFTER

FIRST FLOOR



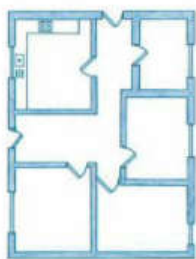
GROUND FLOOR



## KITCHEN

Mairead and David moved the now kitchen to the back of the house and added French windows to make the most of the views of the Wexford coastline and bring the light in. Next to this is the dining room, which was originally the master bedroom.

## BEFORE



## KITCHEN

Wood panelling on the ceiling creates architectural detail and rustic charm.

Try the Real Shaker range from deVOL Kitchens, from £8,000, for similar units. Cheltenham glazed dresser, £775, The Cotswold Company, is a match

When Mairead and David Sinnott first viewed their house in Wexford, it was in need of complete refurbishment. The previous owners had let it fall into disrepair, but the couple could see its potential and knew they could turn the bungalow into a light and spacious home.

'David had great ideas for the house from the off,' says Mairead. 'He's good at seeing the bigger picture and looked beyond the gloomy layout, but I needed to be convinced. The whole place was very basic, complete with swirly carpets and dated wallpaper. The kitchen was tiny and positioned on the side overlooking the road, and the orientation of the building didn't make the most of the views that the site had to offer.' However, the amount of

land that came with the property was a bonus. 'We knew we'd be able to extend at the back of the building and create the additional space we wanted.'

Slowly but surely, the couple tackled the house in stages, starting with the original bungalow, before extending the rear and adding a second storey and a porch. They decided to relocate the kitchen to the back of the house and knock through into the new kitchen from what was the master bedroom, which is now a dining room. 'To enhance the light, we removed the small windows and fitted French windows,' says Mairead. 'Now, both the kitchen and dining area make the most of the sea views.'

'The space that was once the kitchen has become a cosy sitting room with an open fireplace, which formerly housed the Aga,'



# DESIGN TIP

*‘Mix classic antiques with contemporary pieces and modern artwork for a fresh look’*



## GUEST BEDROOM

**‘I picked up this vintage trunk at an auction – it’s great for extra storage in this narrow space,’ says Mairead.** Walls painted in Stone Green vinyl matt, £29.03 for 2.5 litres, Dulux at Designer Paint. Slated vintage trunk, £119, Shabby Store, has this look



## MASTER BEDROOM

**Sumptuous bedlinen and a dark leather headboard gives this space an elegant feel.**

Shimmer bedspread in natural is similar, £50, John Lewis. Refresh faux-leather headboard, £39, Very, suits this scheme



## BATHROOM

**An elegant roll-top is the focal point in here.**

For a similar bath try the Astonian model, £853, Aston Matthews. Ung Drill mirror is a good match, £25, Ikea

she continues. ‘We also blocked off the original front door and converted this area into a study.’

Once the cottage had been reconfigured, the couple decided to live in it for a while and took their time carefully planning the new extension. Plus, the site was very overgrown, so David and his father had to clear the land before the builders could begin.

‘We wanted to see what space we needed and it was two years before we started work on the new additions. We spent many evenings laying out pieces of wood and marking boundaries with spray paint,’ says Mairead. ‘We actually sketched the final design on a napkin when we were out for dinner and my godfather, a draftsman, drew it up and presented it to the planners.’ The

two-storey extension gave the couple three bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, with a large hall and sitting room downstairs.

Now complete, the house has an eclectic feel due to the antiques that Mairead has collected over the years. ‘I love antiques shops, auctions and house clearance sales, and this is where I’ve picked up most of our furnishings,’ she says. ‘It’s a bit of a mix but it works. We also love artwork, so we kept the decor in most of the rooms neutral, as it makes it easier to display any pieces.’

Mairead and David are delighted with how their home has developed and their planning has certainly paid off. ‘It took quite a bit of time to work out the best layout,’ she says, ‘but we now have the space we wanted.’ 25



FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 164



new



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# COMING HOME

*Kim and Derek Loughery took on the challenge of restoring an old stone barn that had been in the family for generations*

FEATURE MANDI MILLAR | PHOTOGRAPHY ASHLEY MORRISON

## SITTING ROOM

Floor-to-ceiling windows frame the picturesque views of the Donegal hills, while the double-height ceiling maximises space. Fonteyn coffee table, £249; Dakota sea green rug, £249, both Made, are comparable. Hare cushion, £12, Habitat. Stag painting by Andrew Coombes, £695, Yard Gallery. Walls painted in Light Blue estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball





## NEW-BUILD



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

New-build extension to an existing stone barn

### LOCATION

County Londonderry

**ROOMS** Kitchen-diner/sitting room, utility room, store room, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom, shower room

**PURCHASED** 2014

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We also own a family home in Belfast,' says Kim.



## KITCHEN

'We built up the sides of the island's worktop so things aren't easily knocked off,' explains Kim.

Ringhult units, from £52 for a base cabinet, Ikea. Oslo oak stool, £65, Atlantic Shopping, is a match. Euston light in polished chrome would work well here, £96, Ocean Lighting



## DINING AREA

Sliding glass doors mean that this area can be closed off from the kitchen – a great idea when the couple are entertaining.

Jenson extendable dining table in solid oak, £599; Kitsch dining chairs in sea green, £59 for two, both Made



### MASTER BEDROOM

**The Loughreys had the four-poster bed made to order so it fitted well with the room's dimensions**

Four-poster bed, £533 for a double, Get Laid Beds, is a good alternative. Dandelion Clocks double throw, £185; cushion, £45, both Bedeck. Hooper bedside table, £99, Made



### BATHROOM

**'A wall-hung basin maximises the space in here,' explains Kim.**

Honed slate grey tiles, £34.99sq m, Homebase, are near-identical. Rak series basin has this look, £70, Victorian Plumbing



Growing up on the family farm in County Londonderry, Derek Loughery used to take for granted the beautiful Northern Ireland countryside. It was only after he left home that he realised how fortunate he was to live in such a stunning setting. 'I think you need a bit of distance sometimes to appreciate what's been right under your nose,' he says.

The farm had been in the family since Derek's father bought it in the 1940s, and it looked like Derek might not carry on the rural tradition when he left to train as an architect. However, with skill and style, he and his wife Kim, also an architect, have managed to put their own 21st-century stamp on the place. 'Most architects dream of designing their own home, and we had the luxury of a ready-made site on family land,' explains Kim. 'We already had a house in Belfast but were looking for a holiday escape where we could bring our children, Evie, 11, and Joseph, 10. Also, Derek's mum Mary lived nearby, so it would make visiting easier, too.'

Soon into the renovations, Kim and Derek realised just how challenging it can be working as your own client. 'Thankfully, we had broadly similar aspirations,' says Kim. 'The starting point is to think about how you'd like to live. We wanted an open-plan living area where we could spend quality time together as a family.' So the couple decided to build an extension to the existing stone barn



## DESIGN ADVICE

*'It's a luxury to plan your home from scratch, so try and work out where your furniture will go, then arrange the power points and lights around that'*



### GUEST BEDROOM

**'This wall has been thermally upgraded and repointed,' says Kim. 'It creates a striking feature in here.'**

For a bed like this one try the Victoria model, £799, Wrought Iron & Brass Bed Company. Charcoal check throw, £70; linen cushion, £30, both Natural Calico

rather than convert it straightaway in order to give them the space they needed as quickly and cost-effectively as possible. 'We hope to convert the barn, too, but for now, I think we have the best of both worlds,' says Kim. Once this was complete, they started to think about style. 'As we both love spacious rooms, we decided on a double-height ceiling in the open-plan area.'

However, the most important element of the design was to ensure that the property maximised the views. 'We wanted the windows to be as big as possible without compromising the energy rating, so we opted for small ones in the utility room and large ones in the living areas,' explains Kim. 'We also used internal glazed doors to maximise light and borrow views from room to room. In terms of colour schemes, we opted for a calm shade of blue on accent walls downstairs to unite the open-plan space. The rest of the walls are white, which makes them easy to touch up.'

As architects, the mechanics of project-managing and interior design were a busman's holiday for the couple, but they're proud of everything they've achieved. 'Sadly, Derek's mum became very ill and passed away before we finished the house, which is a great shame because she had kept a keen eye on the refurbishment,' says Kim. 'But we know that she would have been delighted with the outcome, and we're so pleased to be part of the family legacy.' 25







#### FAMILY ROOM

**Pops of colour stand out against neutrals.**

Jasper sofa in Pumpkin, £2,500, Love Your Home. Cushions, from £35 each, Joanna Corney. Sheepskin rug, £69, Skye Skyns

# SIMPLY DIVINE

*Katherine and Alistair Nicholls saw the potential in their once run-down*



REPLANNED

## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached Victorian home

**LOCATION** West Sussex

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner/family room, downstairs cloakroom/wet room, three bedrooms, bathroom, loft room

**PURCHASED** 2005

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We lived in a flat in Putney, west London,' says Katherine.

FEATURE LILY JOHNSON | PHOTOGRAPHY ALISTAIR NICHOLLS

After several years in London, Alistair and Katherine Nicholls decided it was time to start a family and return to the West Sussex coast where Katherine had grown up. Alistair, who photographs interiors and loves design, was looking for a project and the couple both saw the potential of this Victorian house, which was in serious need of modernisation. 'We really wanted a challenge and this place fitted the bill,' says Alistair.

And so the couple, who now have two children, Sophia, 6, and Freddie, 1, set about a sensitive and lengthy refurbishment. 'We wanted to restore its period features while adding light spaces and modern furniture,' says Katherine. 'We used lots of different textures and subtle tones with the odd pop of colour.' The highlight is the striking

open-plan kitchen-diner and family room entered from the hall via a sliding door that disappears seamlessly into the wall. Bespoke floor-to-ceiling cabinetry hides all the family's practical accessories and leaves room for simple but stylish furnishings that complement the period features.

For access to the garden, the couple decided against bifold doors, opting instead to reinstate traditional-style French windows for uninterrupted views. 'We were keen to have the feeling of bringing the outside in, while retaining some of the back wall for the woodburning stove,' says Alistair. 'This works for us because we wanted the room to feel spacious yet cosy in the winter.' Before opening up the back of the house, the couple had a fairly small sitting room at the front and a narrow dining room. 'It was very important





#### KITCHEN-DINER

Alistair made the table from pine scaffolding boards on hairpin legs. Kitchen cabinetry, £6,000, Orange & Black. Arne Jacobsen 3107 chairs, from £325 each, Innes

*Victorian house and seized the opportunity to make it shine again*



#### SITTING ROOM

**A stunning marble fireplace dominates this space.**

Honed Carrara marble fire surround, £1,400, Classic Mantels. The Montis Hugo chair, £1,000, from Chaplins is comparable. For a similar rug try Sketch, £120, Rockett St George



## MASTER BEDROOM

**'I love this room – it's a peaceful, simple space,' says Katherine.**

For a similar bed try Essence, £799, John Lewis. Pebbles rug, £269, The Rug Seller, has the same look



## WET ROOM

**A dark scheme creates a sense of seclusion.**

Basalt tiles, £45sq m, Mandarin Stone. RAK Shell basin, £102, QS Supplies



## BATHROOM

**Alistair made the sliding unit at the end of the bath.**

For similar floor tiles try Crackle Glaze Aqua Gloss, £40sq m, Mandarin Stone



## SOPHIA'S BEDROOM

**Removing the chimney breast created a lot more space here.**

Cast-iron radiator in All White, £500, Cast Rads



## FAVOURITE FEATURE

***'I love our hidden storage, such as the sliding splashback in the kitchen that hides all our condiments, and the floor cupboard, which is great to sweep toys into'***

to us that the new space could accommodate two large sofas facing each other. We'd never had that before and it's now really sociable and family-friendly,' says Alistair.

A clever design feature is the projector screen hidden in the coving and the surround sound speakers built into the wall. 'There's nothing quite like curling up on the sofa with the woodburner going and enjoying a movie,' says Katherine. 'The children love it too.'

Reclaimed oak parquet flooring flows through the ground floor. Alistair found it on eBay, which saved the couple money, but it proved to be a labour of love as many of the blocks were covered with screed and bitumen

which had to be removed. The couple finished the floor off with lye oil to give the wood a pale Scandinavian feel. 'Considering all the hard work, it was well worth it,' says Alistair. 'It widens the space visually and is the perfect backdrop for our furnishings.'

Alistair's handiwork and attention to detail is in evidence everywhere. 'We couldn't have achieved this high-end finish on our budget without doing a lot of the work ourselves,' he says. 'We wanted our home to be a simple backdrop for all the things we love – not too polished but soft and tactile. I hope that by using natural materials and timeless furnishings we've achieved that.' 25



# BE INSPIRED BY KATHERINE AND ALISTAIR'S STORAGE IDEAS



The rough concrete hearth has a nook for stacking logs.



Cubbyhole shelves in the hallway are the perfect spot to display favourite things.



Luxurious limestone tops the floating cabinets in the sitting room.



Alistair designed the floor cupboard in the family room to stow the children's toys.



The sliding splashback conceals handy shelving.



Unsightly cables are hidden inside this media unit in the family room.





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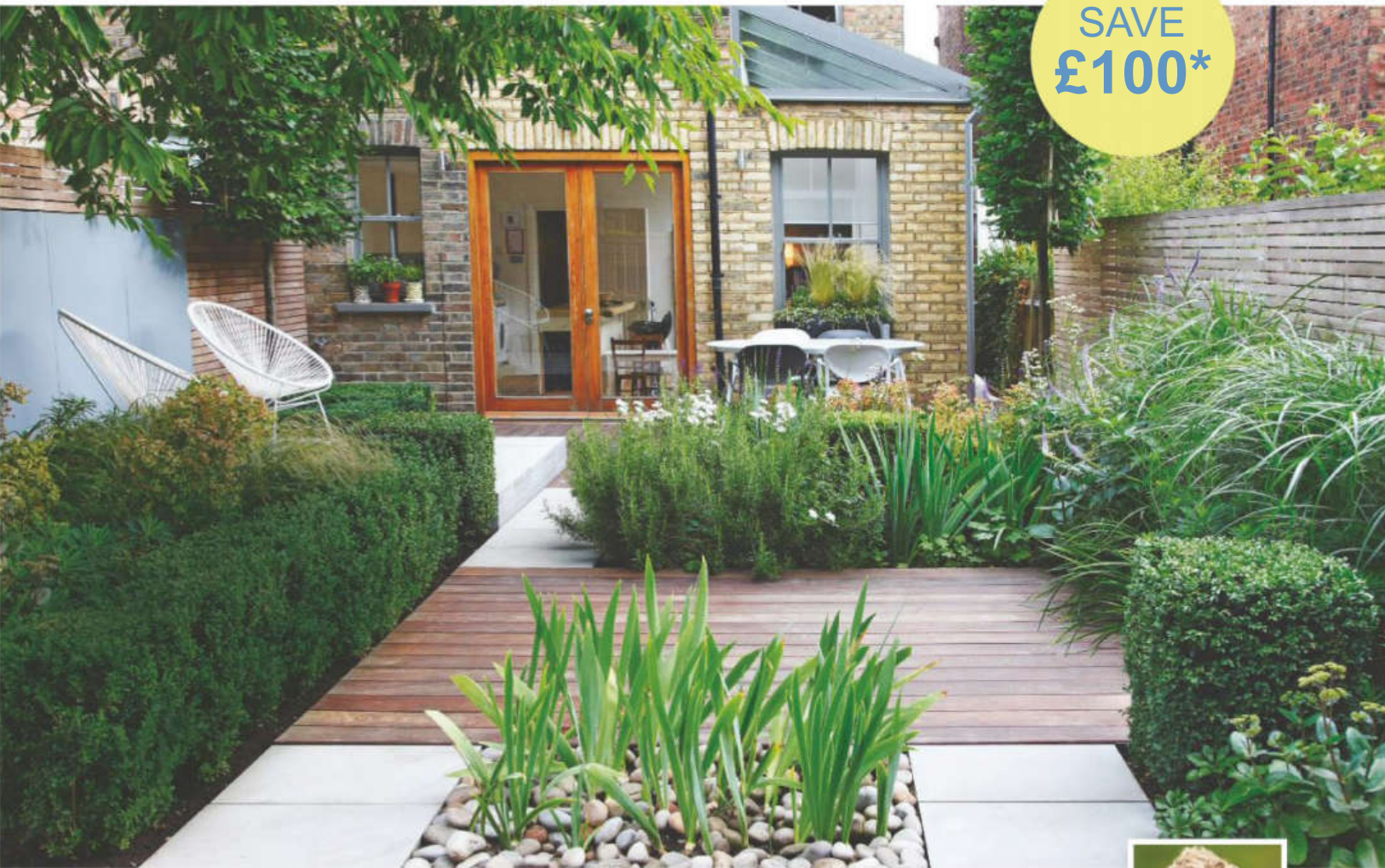
**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** \*The Northern Lights are natural phenomena which cannot be guaranteed to occur during our flight, although they have been visible on many previous outings. Our guest astronomer advises at least an 80% chance of a sighting. Offer operated and subject to the booking conditions of Omega Holidays, ATOL 6081 a company wholly independent of 25 Beautiful Homes, published by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd.



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INSPIRING



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Arts and Crafts detached house

### LOCATION

Southwest London

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room/  
kitchen-diner, study, cloakroom,  
five bedrooms (two en suite),  
bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2012

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we lived  
in a 1960s coach house nearby,'  
says Cindy.

# Space invaders

*By extending their home, Cindy and Allan Fuller created plenty of room to entertain friends and family*

FEATURE KAREN JENSEN-JONES | PHOTOGRAPHY ANTHONY HARRISON





#### SITTING ROOM

Fun accessories, family treasures and discount buys create a homely feel.

Leather sofa, £1,400, Coach House. Bespoke aluminium aviator trunk, £550, Totally Trunks. Bhutan Oriental table lamp, £159 (excluding shade), Oka. European oak flooring, from £60sq m, UK Flooring Direct



#### DINING AREA

The couple and their guests can enjoy garden views while dining. Davey Diner Box pendant, £755, John Lewis. Zinc table, £1,700, Coach House



Despite feeling exhausted after 10 months of project-managing her own home renovation, interior designer Cindy Fuller insists she would quite happily do it all again.

'It was a labour of love,' says Cindy, whose skill, experience and passion proved invaluable.

'The house was in need of a complete makeover and although I'd undertaken renovations before, this has been my biggest project,' she says. 'As soon as I walked into

the hall, I could see the potential of the house because it had some lovely features and enough garden space to extend at the back.'

Reworking the ground floor and adding two metres onto the rear of the property, with guidance from architect Monica Harari, was the first job on the list. Doing this created a bright and spacious open-plan sitting room with kitchen and dining area, where Cindy and her estate-agent husband Allan could entertain. 'We planned every detail meticulously,' explains Cindy, 'even

down to where individual pieces of furniture would sit. We wanted to create a relaxed feel with a traditional fireplace, oak floors and vintage pieces collected over the years.

'All the lighting was figured out at a very early stage,' continues Cindy. 'I prefer to have soft lighting in unexpected places, so we fitted adjustable ceiling spots, which can be turned easily to highlight a particular space.' There's also an eye-catching arrangement of floor and table lamps. 'As a result, the sitting room comes into its own when we





## KITCHEN

**Bold colour brings these simple units to life, while the Corian tops add a notable contrast.** Glacier White worktop, £309sq m, Corian. Toledo Vintage bar stool, £129, Cult Furniture. Pendant light, £50, Bhs. Concourse blind fabric, £46m, Fabrics & Papers, is identical to this one

have guests. There are lots of cosy seating areas, each with their own ambience.'

Cindy is just as particular about paint colours, and through her training as an interior designer she understands the importance of considering natural light when choosing them. 'The same paint will look different depending on whether the room you're decorating faces north or south,' she explains. 'The quality of light changes, just as it does between hot and cold countries, and for this reason, I've never been keen on using white paint as a backdrop because of our

cooler climate.' Storage was another key consideration and was mapped out on every floor before the renovation began. 'I designed a master bedroom suite at the top of the house with lots of discreet cupboards built flush into the eaves,' says Cindy. 'Not only are they extremely useful, but they're space-saving, too.'

However, not everything went exactly to plan. 'Our handmade bed was going to be placed against a wall but couldn't be because of the sloping roof,' says Cindy. 'As the bed had already been built, it had

to fit somewhere and the middle of the room was the only option. Fortunately, it all worked out and makes a lovely feature.'

As discerning as she is, Cindy loves nothing more than finding a bargain buy to complement her expensive items. 'I enjoy the challenge of sourcing furniture and accessories, and it's nice to come across a great deal such as beautiful fabric or wallpaper at an outlet store,' she says. 'I get a lot of inspiration looking online, too, and could spend all day browsing – and that's when I start to think I could redesign the house all over again.' 25

**DECORATING ADVICE** *'If you're using one colour as a base for your home, use variations of that shade for depth and incorporate texture through accessories'*



## MASTER EN SUITE

**'When tiling a small area, splash out on something you really love, as you won't need very much of it,' advises Cindy.**

Vyne white gloss wall tiles, £45.33sq m, Topps Tiles, would work. Clearwater small teardrop bath, £1,839, Bathroom Discount Centre



## MASTER BEDROOM

**Pink linen makes a striking feature of the centrally located bed.**

Bespoke bed by Anthony Humphries at Ways of the Wood



## 1 GUEST BEDROOM

**Luxury wallpaper provides inspiration for this design.**

Designers Guild Viola wallpaper, £254 per roll, Select Wallpaper

## 2 GUEST BEDROOM

**Cindy chose muted shades to create a softer look here.**

Designers Guild Cecily wallpaper, £58 per roll, Select Wallpaper. Bedlinen, from £96, The White Company



## GUEST BEDROOM

**Colour and pattern adds interest to this simple setting. See more of Cindy's designs at [Cindyfullerinteriors.co.uk](http://Cindyfullerinteriors.co.uk).**

Designers Guild Grenard wallpaper, £58 per roll, Select Wallpaper. Plain fuchsia cushions, £2 each, B&Q





# IN THE FAMILY

*Seduced by uninterrupted countryside views, Mandy and Tom Foottit renovated a farmhouse and its outbuildings, creating a home big enough for three generations*

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

## DISTINCTIVE



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Stone-built farmhouse and stables, dating back to the early 1700s

**LOCATION** Lincolnshire

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen, conservatory, bedroom, shower room, plus main farmhouse and outbuildings

**PURCHASED** 1998

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'Before moving here, we lived in a three-bedroom cottage in Northamptonshire,' says Mandy.

## CONSERVATORY

Reclaimed terracotta tiles sourced from a small factory in Norfolk, create a homely feel. Mandy had the dining table and chairs painted for a contemporary note.

Find similar Pamment floor tiles, from £52.25sq m, at the Norfolk Pamments. Dining table painted in Mole's Breath estate eggshell; dining chairs painted in Charleston Gray estate eggshell, both £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Faristan rug, from £151, The Rug Seller, is similar. Glass pot, £85, Hester Cresswell at The Garden Room



## SITTING ROOM

A woodburning stove makes this a cosy place on winter evenings. Mandy kept the walls neutral adding decorative touches with throws, glassware and ceramics.

Carlita five-arm ceiling light, £150, John Lewis. Reindeer throw, £180, The Sack Store. Glass bottle jar, £65, Hester Cresswell at The Garden Room







#### KITCHEN

Skylights channel extra light into this compact room, while a metal pendant lends a graphic touch. Burford kitchen cabinetry, price on application, Howdens. Large Cavendish pendant light in Charcoal, £140, Garden Trading

#### SITTING ROOM

Patterned cushions and a vibrant blue table lamp base add splashes of colour to an otherwise neutral scheme. Howard sofa, £1,995, plus fabric, Elizabeth Stanhope Interiors. Wicker armchair, £325; lamp base, £85, both Hester Cresswell at The Garden Room





Mandy and Tom Footitt have a keen interest in historic buildings and gardens, so it's no surprise that they snapped up their Grade II listed Lincolnshire farmhouse and its outbuildings as soon as they saw them. Set in three acres of paddock and garden, it was the perfect option for a growing family, which includes sons, Joey, now 17, and Angus, 14. It also provided the pair with the ideal place to accommodate their parents as they got older. 'At first I was quite reluctant to leave our Northamptonshire cottage,' says Mandy, 'but as soon as we came across this property, with fantastic views, we knew it was right.'

The farmhouse was in good shape, but it was the former stables and tack room that really interested Tom, a solicitor, and Mandy, a former property lawyer. After moving in, they concentrated on tweaking the main building, then turned their attention to the stable block. Working closely with the local planning office, they restored the property within the original layout and openings, carving out a comfortable one-storey home and finally linking it to the main house by way of an elegant conservatory.

Six years ago, after Mandy's mother sadly passed away, her father Eric moved into the stable block and spent several happy years with the family. Then, after he died in 2014, the couple decided it was time

to overhaul the building. 'We were so happy to have my father living in it,' reflects Mandy. 'Now the stable block has moved into a new era, and we wanted to reflect that by adding features that would help it to become a seamless extension of our home.'

The pair refitted the kitchen with smart Shaker-style units, repainted throughout in a palette of stone, grey and off-white and added a woodburning stove for chilly evenings. 'When it came to the decor, I was helped by two of my friends; one who works with stained glass and has a great eye for colour, and another, Hester Cresswell, who works in interiors,' says Mandy. 'With their input, I gave some of my antique furniture a new coat of paint and added tweed fabrics alongside natural linens.'

Some of the couple's favourite pieces have made it into the annexe, including an antique bureau, while ceramics, decorative glassware, and treasured artwork add a homely touch. 'Things inevitably get a little

chaotic in the main house with two teenage boys and Jangy, our Miniature Schnauzer,' says Mandy. 'So sometimes I escape here and sit in the conservatory with a cup of coffee or light the fire and relax.'

Today, the annexe is also put to good use by friends and family who often come to stay. 'Like us, they love this building,' says Mandy. 'We're so pleased that we took the time and effort to restore it.' 25

**FAVOURITE SHOP** *'Hester Cresswell's The Garden Room in Haconby is full of inspiration with its antique furniture, fabrics, lighting and decorative accessories'*

#### BEDROOM

**A soft palette of blue, grey and stone creates a restful scheme.**

Rattan headboard, £265, Crown French Furniture. Small cushions in Stockholm Stripe and lampshade in Pretty Maids, both £48m, Vanessa Arbuthnott



#### SHOWER ROOM

**A generous walk-in shower makes the most of the available space in here.**

Rain mosaic tiles, £21.75sq m, Mosaic Tile Shop, would create a similar effect. Simple Spot blind fabric, £46m, Vanessa Arbuthnott



FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 164



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# CAPITAL CHOICE

*Corinne and Tom Lewis-Reynier swapped city centre for space and greenery just a few miles to the south*

FEATURE KATE JACOBS | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

Having a growing family, Corinne and Tom Lewis-Reynier sacrificed location for space – they decided to sell up their flat in central London and moved a few miles southward to gain a garden plus local parks. Their daughter Loanne, now 11, was already attending school in south London and the area had good

transport links. Although this traditional terrace had been rented out for many years, it had instant appeal, with generous proportions and ‘a very comfortable feel,’ as Corinne recalls.

One of its selling points was that it was already completely habitable. The couple were busy with full-time jobs and young children, so they didn’t want to be rushed into any



## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Terrace, built in 1900

**LOCATION** South London

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen/diner, rear sitting room, media room, cloakroom, laundry room, four bedrooms, two bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2011

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

‘Before moving here, we had a flat near London’s South Bank,’ says Corinne.



## KITCHEN

The kitchen has been extended into the side return while encaustic tiles add character.

Mixed tiles, £104.50sq m, Alhambra Home. White units, price on request; Antarctica Corian worktop, price on request, all SDS Interiors. For similar lights try the Tom Dixon Beat tall pendant, £285, John Lewis



DESIGN TIP 'We made a graphic feature of the kitchen doorway by painting a wide grey border around it'



# 2

## I DINING AREA Bold touches gives an edge to the otherwise simple area.

Bramante extending dining table, £499; Hive black pendant light, £99, both Made. Ascot chairs in alabaster and weathered oak, £249 a pair, Swoon Editions

## 2 & 3 REAR SITTING ROOM

Alcove walls are painted grey in both sitting rooms to add interest and a sense of continuity.

Walls painted in Farrow & Ball's Blue Gray estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres. Bouji chair in graphite and turquoise, £179, Made. For a similar floor try the hand-scraped antique oiled oak floor, £29.45sq m, Oak Floors Online. Fabrikor cabinet in light green, £150, Ikea



# 3



**SITTING ROOM**

Accessories enliven a neutral scheme of whites and greys.

Branagh Chesterfield sofa in Pearl Grey, £999; Ira table lamp in harrier grey, £49, both Made. Large Harmony Ribbon pendant shade, £130, John Lewis



renovations. 'We wanted to live here first and get a feel for the place,' explains Corinne. After about six months, the couple were ready to make major changes to the house. The two upper storeys were reconfigured, with the largest front bedroom being divided to create a bathroom at one end for Loanne, while the couple's 6-year-old son Archibald's bedroom, to the rear, has its own adjoining WC. The middle bedroom has become a TV den, effectively giving the children their own floor.

Upstairs, the couple created a master suite for themselves, with another surplus bathroom transformed into a utility room. After a lot of deliberation, they removed the ugly 1980s conservatory at the rear of the house, creating a large terrace for outdoor entertaining, while they extended the kitchen out into the side return. This area is topped with a spectacular glass roof leading to a glazed rear panel,

creating a stylish kitchen with a generous dining area. The palette has been kept low-key: matte white with touches of grey, as in the dappled Corian worktop. Colour is provided by the bold panels of Spanish encaustic tiles. 'They're a bit love-it-or-hate-it,' laughs Corinne, 'but we wanted something different.'

To create a link to the rest of the house, Corinne and Tom opted for more mismatched tiles in the hall, but in a subtler pattern and grey tone, matching the neutral walls in here and the double sitting room. 'During the renovation, we had to make so many decisions that we just opted for plain white walls, with grey accents,' explains Corinne. Interest has been added with artwork, rugs and key pieces of quirky furniture. 'The house is constantly evolving, but we love what we've achieved so far,' says Corinne. 'It really suits our life now and it will for many years to come.' 25





**I HALL**  
The grey tiles provide a starting point for the colour scheme here. Floor tiles Design T69 from Alhambra Home, £75sq m. Pampas Nordic Stripe stair runner, price on request, Kersaint Cobb

**2 MASTER BATHROOM**  
Having a sink, cabinet and storage drawers in the same hue lends a seamless look. Duravit Happy D basin, £1,072; Crosswater Atoll tap, £155, both Just Add Water. Salle de Bain window film, made to measure by Brume. Diamante Teal tiles, £38.33sq m, Topps Tiles



#### MASTER BEDROOM

The couple wanted a minimalist aesthetic for this loft sanctuary. Marimekko Frekvenssi wallpaper, £57 per roll, John Lewis. Hooper storage bedside tables, £119, Made. Nordlux Emission 26 pendant light, £150, Arrow Electrical. Brompton bedlinen, from £22, The White Company

**FAVOURITE ROOM** *'We love our bedroom, where we made a conscious decision to avoid TV to create a really simple and peaceful space'*



**LOANNE'S BEDROOM**  
Offbeat, mismatched cushions create a feeling of fun here. For a similar wall paint try Laura Ashley's Eau de Nil matt emulsion, £32 for 2.5 litres. For bedstead like this try the Lasko, from £300, John Lewis





# Insight

## CREATING MODERN TILE EFFECTS

*Inspired by the Lewis-Reyniers' on-trend encaustic tiled floor? Recreate the look with our advice*

**E**nciaustic tiles – with their vibrant colours and striking Moorish designs – are enjoying something of a revival. Bold geometric designs and patchwork styles have been used in commercial settings for a number of years but are becoming increasingly popular in the home.

### Modern-day aesthetic

In keeping with the trend towards using colour and pattern in interiors, encaustic tiles are ideal for adding interest and are crafted in myriad shades: from bold geometric pastel designs to eye-catching monochrome motifs and arresting Moroccan shapes in ochre and burnt orange, emerald green and azure blue.

Working equally well with modern and traditional interiors, encaustic tiles are a versatile product. Simple geometric patterns work well with the clean lines of Mid-Century or minimalist interiors, while the more intricate designs have a traditional feel. For impact, consider patchwork-style floors and walls, selecting styles that are tonally complementary or,

as in Corinne's kitchen-diner, mismatched for dramatic effect. To start, experiment with small areas – such as a splashback or hearth – before tiling larger expanses. It's ideal for adding a splash of colour to an all-white bathroom or to classic kitchen units.

### Technical know-how

The process of crafting encaustic tiles, where pattern runs through the tile rather than simply being printed on the surface, is a timeworn practice dating back to the 12th-century. Semi-liquid marble is poured into moulds, the colours bleeding into each other slightly for a soft, chalky finish, and afterwards, a concrete backing is applied and the tiles are left to dry.

Despite their long history, encaustic tiles work well with underfloor heating and, although they tend to be thicker than porcelain tiles, they are relatively straightforward for a professional to install. Grout can also have a big impact on the overall look. A complementary shade works best – allowing the tiles to take centre stage – with grout joints being a minimum of 3mm.



### PROFESSIONAL ADVICE



'For a modern feel, look for geometric patterns with a clean and contemporary feel such as Neisha Crosland's Florentine parquet tiles. Embrace the trend for using tiles throughout

the home to give sitting rooms and bedrooms a fresh, up-to-the-minute look. Encaustic tiles have a lovely chalky finish that prevents them from looking cold or stark and, when used with underfloor heating, gives a space a cosy feel.

**Some colour variation is to be expected with encaustic tiles, particularly those that are made using the traditional method of leaving them to dry outside. The final colour will vary from season to season, but this is very much part of the beauty of the product.**

As they are porous tiles need to be handled carefully prior to sealing to prevent them becoming marked – although once sealed correctly they will be protected from stains.

**Always lay them across the floor before fixing them so you can ensure an even distribution of colour and pattern. Ideally, you should buy tiles from the same batch to minimise colour variation so it's important to calculate how many tiles you need, making sure you order around 10 per cent extra to allow for breakages.'**

CAROLINE GOW, FIRED EARTH

### ADDRESS BOOK

■ **Fired Earth 01295 814396, [firedearth.com](http://firedearth.com)**  
Leading designers and producers of encaustic and handmade tiles

■ **Best Tile 00 353 5135 4905, [best-tile.co.uk](http://best-tile.co.uk)**  
Importer of encaustic tiles, use their online tool to experiment with different looks

■ **Checkatrade 0333 014 6190, [checkatrade.com](http://checkatrade.com)**  
Search a database of professional tradespeople for an accredited tiler



Florentine tiles, £274.40sq m, Neisha Crosland

Madeira collection, £195sq m, Fired Earth

Majadas Green tiles, £222sq m, Bert & May



**EXPERT EYE** 'Geometric patterns are very popular and make a real statement. It's also worth considering reclaimed tiles – they're harder to come by but they give a unique finish'

LEE THORNLEY, BERT & MAY



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# GOING GREEN

An unplanned move to the countryside gave Catherine Barr and Webster Wickham the chance to restore a historic farmhouse with eco-friendly features

FEATURE ALIX BATEMAN | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

## DISTINCTIVE



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Grade II listed farmhouse, dating from 1786

**LOCATION** Herefordshire

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, drawing room, kitchen-diner, study, cloakroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2002

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We were renting a modern detached bungalow in a nearby town before this,' says Catherine.





**DRAWING ROOM**  
By installing blinds instead of curtains, the couple have made this area feel more spacious and airy. Askem Blue three-seater sofa, £1,100, Habitat, is near-identical. The plank apothecary chest is a good alternative, £749, Home & Furniture. Pedestal oak side table would work well here, £315, Tarzan Tables



With their first baby on the way and looking for some occasional respite from city life, Catherine Barr and Webster Wickham began to rent a weekend bolthole in the Herefordshire countryside, but they hadn't quite meant to move there. 'Then we saw this place,' says Catherine, of the 18th-century farmhouse perched high on a hillside with amazing views. 'We knew it was a renovation project that would allow us to put into practice our joint passion for green building.'

The Grade II listed stone-built farm was semi-derelict. 'You could see straight up through the pantry ceiling into the room that's now our bedroom,' says Catherine, and so the couple made what they considered to be a low offer. 'Most buyers were put off by the state of the property, so three months later they came back to us with a yes.' The pair then had to face two years of building work while they rented a place nearby.

The project involved a new roof structure, new windows, damp proofing, and the removal of an old kitchen extension that was not original to the house. 'As the whole place was in bad shape, we virtually stripped it all out,' recalls Catherine. The pair had hired an architect, but undaunted by the extensive work, they soon began to take care of many of the design details themselves. 'What attracted us to this place, aside from its remoteness and the fact that it was a blank canvas, was its sense of history,' she recalls. 'We wanted to retain its heritage yet develop it to reflect a contemporary family aesthetic.'

The main body of the house was restored with the architectural features in mind, retaining where possible the original materials, exposing the stonework, and reusing the beams and flagstones. The family, which now includes daughters Hannah, 14, and Iola, 12, then made the most of the spectacular outlook by creating a glass extension





#### LANDING

Original floorboards were restored where possible. Try Chilton Church Antiques for similar pews, from £175



#### STAIRWAY

Classic features mix with modern.

Bookshelf, £495, Christie Studio. *The Story of Life: A First Book on Evolution* by Catherine Barr & Steve Williams, £12.99, Quarto Knows



#### SITTING ROOM

The external stone wall was left exposed for a rustic look.

Klippan sofa in Kimstad black, £175, Ikea. Hwam woodburning stove, from £2,657, Euroheat, is a good match

FAVOURITE ROOM 'Life revolves around the glass extension – we live, eat, talk, laugh, argue and generally make a mess in here!'



### MASTER BEDROOM

Items and furnishings with a family history are dotted throughout the home.

Webster's Great Grandmother's, Mabel Lucie Attwell, original artwork takes pride of place on the sideboard. For limited edition prints, have a look at Mabel, from £150 each. Linen double duvet set, £80, H&M. PS cabinet, £70, Ikea



that connects the house to a series of sheds. 'The outbuildings are just more projects waiting to happen,' explains Catherine.

After this, they installed a ground source heat pump with pipes running up and down the fields as well as solar thermal panels. 'We wanted the house to be as energy efficient as we could make it,' says Catherine. It turned out that the property had already played its part in the green movement as it existed formally as a bit of a commune. 'It has quite a bohemian history of sorts,' she continues. 'We've met people from London to Somerset and plenty locally who have stories of the legendary parties that went on here, including a man who recalled clinging to a chair suspended from our kitchen ceiling!'

The couple were inspired to paint all the walls white for a gallery-like effect, and works by Webster's grandmother, the daughter of illustrator Mabel Lucie Attwell, now adorn their walls. Touches such as stainless steel and glass paired with modern furnishings and pops of colour, create an interesting dialogue between the old weathered stone and the new. 'We love the contrast of the chunky stone against the lightness of the glass,' muses Catherine.

Working sympathetically with the existing structure of the farmhouse to preserve its original character and applying sustainable and environmentally friendly principles to the renovation work, Catherine and Webster have created a beautiful family home that honours the history of the building. 'We are so pleased to have moved here,' she says. 'It was a decision that has certainly paid off.' 25

### STUDY

'This is my haven for book ideas,' says Catherine.

Cult Furniture has a Charles Eames-style ribbed office chair like this one, £179



### EN SUITE

'This has the best view from a shower that you could wish for,' says Catherine.

Original walk-in curved corner shower enclosure, £3,414, Matki



### GUEST BEDROOM

Muted greys create a calm space for visitors.

Wall painted in Avantgarde 63, £40.20 for 5 litres, Keim Mineral Paints. Nymö lampshade, £18, Ikea, is comparable







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# WILD AT HEART

Paul Ledger took inspiration from his favourite hotel and the surrounding countryside to create a stunning family eco home

FEATURE FAITH ECKERSALL | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE

## DINING AREA

A vintage antler chandelier alludes to the house's forest setting.

Vintage four-arm antler chandelier, £195; Victorian oil paintings, £90 each, all Bowden Knight. Walls in Mole's Breath estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball





## REPLANNED



### HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Former 18th-century pub, extended in 1911 and remodelled in 2014

**LOCATION** New Forest

**ROOMS** Sitting room, family room, kitchen-diner, cloakroom, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2013

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'The last property we bought was a small cottage situated quite nearby,' says Paul.



**LESSONS LEARNT** *'Work everything out on paper first and stick to it. They say every hour you spend in planning saves four hours on site and it's absolutely true'*



When Paul Ledger and his partner Sarah first viewed a property in the New Forest, there was no doubt in

their minds as to how it should look – they wanted it like the decor in their favourite local hotel.

The house was a former pub and was derelict. 'It had seven cramped little rooms downstairs, and it had once been used as staff quarters,' says Paul who learnt it had lain empty for nearly 10 years. 'I'd been told that for much of the time, there had been no roof and the property had also suffered a fire at some point,' he says.

'Despite the depressing scene, I thought it could be turned into a beautiful home because we could just go right through it and change everything,' says Paul. The couple decided to engage designer Mia Preston to help realise their vision for the property, which was to be both a family retreat and also a rental



### KITCHEN

Paul wanted fresh, modern, easy-to-keep-clean paintwork in this older part of the house.

Wall, door and architrave paint, Hardwick White estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Milan tumbled limestone flooring, £54sq m, Mandarin Stone. Eve wooden bar stool in black, £70, Atlantic Shopping





**DECORATING TIP** *'If you use an interior designer, give them some free rein and they'll come up with fantastic ideas you would never have thought of'*

#### SITTING ROOM

The library-effect wallpaper and sumptuous sofas help create the feel of a gentlemen's club.

Wallpaper, Library Navigator in Stone, £135.90 per roll, Andrew Martin.  
Chesterfield sofa, £1,500, Sofas & Stuff.  
Bluebell three-seat sofa in Pigeon Herringbone, £1,295, Sofa.com.  
To rent this property visit [theoldsirwaltertyrrell.co.uk](http://theoldsirwaltertyrrell.co.uk)



for holidays and weekends. Part of that vision was to make the house as eco-friendly as possible. 'It would have been cheaper initially to put in an oil-fired boiler but I decided to go for a woodburner instead,' says Paul. 'We also installed solar roof panels and during the summer, the hot water produced almost reached boiling point.'

Paul opted for underfloor heating and commissioned new double-glazed timber sash windows to bring form and proportion back to the exterior. 'Replacing 27 windows was costly but worth it, as they make this house look so good,' he says. 'I just couldn't see the point of installing anything that didn't suit both the building and the surroundings – the New Forest is a National Park, plus this property's in a conservation area.'

Paul says the best part of the renovation was choosing the interiors. 'Mia would produce mood boards for each room or area,' he says. 'We attended auctions, snapping up handsome mahogany pieces for next to nothing.' One day they arrived at the auction house and couldn't believe how few males were there. 'It turned out it was the Rugby World Cup final so I had hardly any competition for the pieces I wanted!' says Paul.

Paul believes Mia's choice of accessories – such as the antler chandelier in the dining room – perfectly complements the New Forest fauna, regularly spotted outside the cottage gate. 'We get a herd of deer strolling by every morning,' he says.

The property is now enjoyed by all the family, including the children Dan, 23, Adam, 15, and James, 5. The family's future plans for the house are simple. 'We just want to spend more time here,' says Paul. And when the children aren't around, he and Sarah are keen to share it. 'We're happy for friends and relatives to come and enjoy it – it has such a lovely, warm, feeling about it.' 25





#### MASTER BEDROOM

Placed by the window, the velvet chaise longue is the perfect setting for a peaceful read.

Rock Luxe Velvet chaise longue, £645, The French Bedroom Company. Vintage oak standard lamp, £125, Bowden Knight. Jara lampshade, £8, Ikea



#### COUNTRY DETACHED | 25BH

#### MASTER BEDROOM

The walls here are painted in a soft grey, which helps to add a soft and calming atmosphere.

Walls painted in Lamp Room Grey estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. King-size sleigh bed, £300, Andrew Smith Auction House. Heritage extending arm wall light, £90, John Lewis



#### GUEST BEDROOM

A white-painted bed looks suitably elegant here.

Gustavian king-size bed, £850, Tasha Interiors. Walls painted in Pavilion Gray estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



#### EN-SUITE

This room has a tastefully nostalgic air. Burlington range basin with stand, from £299; bath, from £649, both Bathzone





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# THE SOURCE

*Erica Miller shows how you can achieve the style secrets in this issue's homes*

## Design ideas



### PICTURE HOOKS



Pages  
107–110

Nothing personalises and breathes life into a home more than a creative display of framed pictures. Catherine Barr and Webster Wickham have stamped their identity on their hallway

by hanging wall hooks topped with favourite family photos. The wooden block-style hooks have been specially designed to balance a framed picture perfectly. Thoughtful touches like this help make your house feel more homely. A similar idea would be to hang a series of framed photos by rope from a simple Shaker-style peg rail mounted on the wall. This idea would translate equally well into a family bathroom, where everyone has a personalised hook to hang their own towel or robe.



### VERSATILE ISLAND



Pages  
82–85

A well-designed island such as the one in the Lougherys' contemporary, open-plan kitchen is a clever way of introducing extra style, storage, worktop space or seating to your room. The couple

have added a raised edge to their island, which not only creates a neat and streamlined finish but also helps conceal the work area behind from guests in the adjacent dining area. Simple wall tiles provide a useful mini splashback, and the three smart pendant lights above offer plenty of practical task lighting. Cleverly positioned, the island workstation also forms a visual boundary between the different zones, while the pale cabinetry, walls and flooring ensure that the kitchen is always a bright and welcoming place.



### WALL STICKER



Pages  
52–56

A cherry blossom wall sticker injects an eye-catching decorative touch in Susan Bradley and Simon Onion's pared-back monochrome bathroom. Also known as decals, they are a

simple and inexpensive way to instantly transform a blank wall, and can be applied and removed in seconds without damaging the wall or whatever surface they're stuck to. Available in a wide variety of fun and imaginative designs to suit all tastes, they will add pattern, interest and a sense of drama to a featureless room. So whether you own or rent your home, wall stickers are a brilliant, effortless way to put your individual mark on your place and make it your own without lifting a paintbrush.



## Inspired shopping



Pages  
41 – 44

### Shapely table lamp

A pair of lamps adds an elegant air to Stephen Ireton and Daniel Moore's sitting room. Demeter metal table lamp, £213, Oka, is similar.



Pages  
52 – 56

### Solid-oak worktop

If you covet the solid-timber worktops in Susan and Simon's kitchen then you may also like this dark oak breakfast bar, £395 for two metres, from Wickes.

### Zigzag rug

A patterned rug gives a lively pop of colour in Catherine Hender and Ryan Clifford's home office. Try the Lombard hand-woven rug in golden chevron, 210 x 150cm, £199, Swoon Editions.



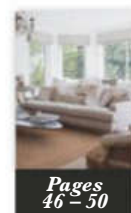
Pages  
159 – 162



Pages  
41 – 44

### Stone basin

This design works with the neutral tones of Stephen and Daniel's bathroom. The Bacia stone basin, £1,350, Indigenious.



Pages  
46 – 50

### Classic sofa

For chic sofas like the ones in the Znowskis' spacious sitting room, take a look at the Chelsea fixed-back design in Romo Linara, £2,347, Delcor.



Pages  
65 – 68

### Glass dome

Anouska Lancaster's glass domes create a pretty display. Atesia two-tier slate serving set, £34.99, Lakeland, is a match.



Pages  
58 – 61

### Limestone floor

The rugged stone floor in the Kellys' hall is great for modern and traditional interiors. The Belgian Bleu limestone floor, £175sq m, Fired Earth, is similar.





# Design solutions

## KITCHEN DESIGNS WITH A TWIST

*A kitchen is a big investment so it's important to get it right. Here are three designs with a difference*



### MIX AND MATCH



Pages  
107–110

Catherine and Webster's strikingly different kitchen features both steel and blond wood units. Mixing and matching these cabinet materials is a brave move but the right combination makes for a characterful,

contemporary kitchen. Choosing two different finishes can be a case of opposites attract. In perfect contrast, this Cook's Kitchen by Mark Wilkinson Furniture – winner of a Design Classic Award – is custom made from rosewood, which is partly painted and stained in a rich tone to complement the handles. It costs from around £40,000.

### FREESTANDING UNIT



Pages  
34–39

The Krambergers' impressive kitchen features a long, sleek work bench made from stainless steel and wood. It provides extra countertop space and also helps break up the vast area. But unlike a standard

solid island, it keeps the room looking and feeling open and airy. If you don't intend to integrate a sink or appliances into your workstation, consider a freestanding piece of furniture, which can be repositioned easily and taken with you if you move. Shown here is the Metod/Bodby range, from £3,060; with the Stenstorp Kitchen island in white and oak, £200, all Ikea.

### RECLAIMED WOOD



Pages  
128–131

As respect for our natural resources intensifies, using salvaged materials is becoming increasingly important when restoring a home. Harry Diamond's kitchen is made from reclaimed wood, and his

beautiful eco-sensitive design is proof that you don't have to sacrifice style for principles. Full of character and individuality, the multifunctional island unit features Antique Belgian oak floorboards crafted into rustic door fronts, complemented with a fossilised Belgian Bluestone worktop. Bespoke kitchens by Holloways of Ludlow are priced from £25,000.

## 5 OF THE BEST *Digital cordless phones with answering machines*

*We take a look at the hottest new designs packed with cutting-edge technology*



Idect Eclipse Plus cordless phone, £59.99, Currys



Philips M8 cordless phone with wood finish, £129, John Lewis



Panasonic KX-PRW120EW smart cordless phone, £100, Currys



Gigaset Sculpture cordless phone, £90, Amazon.co.uk



BT Home SmartPhone S11 touchscreen cordless phone, £170, BT Shop



# Inspired shopping



Pages  
154–157

## Embroidered cushions

The Constantines' beautiful cushions lend a striking note to their sitting room. Love Birds black cushion, £72, Jan Constantine.



## Simple chandelier

Understated chandeliers add elegance to the Becketts' dining area. Sweetpea & Willow's Adorlee teardrop chandelier, £612, is comparable.



Pages  
136–139



## Gothic bed

Harry Diamond's hand-forged metal bed is inspired by a renowned gothic architect. The Pugin bed, from £2,750, And So To Bed.



Pages  
128–131



## Slipper bath

A compact cast-iron bath takes pride of place in the Miles' bijoux bathroom. For a similar design see the Tubby Tub in burnished iron, £2,039, The Albion Bath Company.



Pages  
70–73



## Black-and-white wallpaper

Monochrome rococo-style wallpaper creates a bold feature wall in the Fullers' bedroom. Get



Pages  
92–95

the look with Majestic black/white wallpaper from Graham & Brown's, Superfresco Easy range, £15 a roll.



Pages  
150–153

## Green glass

A collection of coloured glass items catches the light on Najwa Mroue and Karim Bazzi's coffee table. Steal their style with this handmade green Portuguese glass diamond decanter, £65, Jasmine Way.





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# WHITE HOUSE

*Lisa and Stacey's family home is a study in streamlined style on a pure white canvas*

FEATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY JO SHELDRAKE



**DINING AREA**  
**Uncluttered styling**  
**with a distinctly retro feel.**  
Curved dining chairs, £130  
each, Smithers of Stamford.  
Polished concrete floor,  
£100sq m, Lazenby



**BEST BUY** *'We love the pool table in the family room – it's perfect for when we have family gatherings'*



NEW-BUILD

## HOME TRUTHS

### THE PROPERTY

Detached new-build

**LOCATION** Somerset

**BUILT** 2013

**ROOMS** Kitchen-diner/family room, sitting room, utility room, snug, gym, five bedrooms (three en suite), wet room, games room

### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before here, we lived in our first self-build in a village nearby,' says Stacey.

Lisa and Stacey White were certainly not looking for a building project, but in 2009 on a family day out to a village near their home in Wiltshire, they came across an interesting proposition.

'We spotted a very run-down house on a wonderful plot of land,' explains Lisa. 'We knew that it would be the ideal spot on which to build a contemporary home.' And the couple also felt it would be a perfect place to raise their children Jazdon, now 11, and Honaya, 10. Planning permission was finally

granted at the end of that year and the family moved into rented accommodation, rolled up their sleeves and began work.

The existing house was knocked down and the couple, who run their own door and window supply business, worked together with local architect Justin Paterson at BoonBrown to design their dream home. The layout for a spacious, light-filled, three-storey minimalist property soon came together. 'What we love are fewer rooms but larger spaces, clean lines and a white canvas,' says Lisa. 'We wanted to



create a home that had plenty of space for family and also for entertaining friends. The timing wasn't the best, though,' she recalls. 'The recession was hitting hard and, while Stacey was building up our window business, he was also project managing our build and working on-site late into the evenings in order to keep costs down.' Nevertheless the family's timber-framed house was finally starting to come together.

Constructed in part from the ancient local Blue Lias stone, the new house has

cedar cladding and vast, sliding double-glazed windows and doors under a slate roof. Inspired by American homes, a centrally placed glass stairway adds wow factor.

The bright living space with its stylish fitted kitchen and quartz worksurfaces provides the family with plenty of open-plan living, and lots of storage, while a brilliant white pool table gives a sense of fun. Large floor-to-ceiling sliding doors lead out onto a fully equipped terrace where family and friends can relax and enjoy an extended

#### **1, 2 & 3 KITCHEN-DINER/ FAMILY ROOM**

**Lisa and Stacey enjoy sharing this light-filled space with family and friends.**

Pool table, from £1,000, Mercury Leisure. Sliding aluminium doors, from £7,000, Pro-Fit Windows and Doors. Modular design white sofa, from £3,195, Denelli

#### **4 SITTING ROOM**

**Clever use of accent lighting and a bold sofa make this a warm and cosy spot.**

Rupert velvet sofa in purple, from £2,100, Habitat, is comparable in style. Venetian mirrored coffee table, £300, Home Living





#### MASTER BEDROOM

**This elegant and soothing scheme also benefits from uninterrupted views.**

Find a range of similar Art Deco-style dressing tables at Out There Interiors, from £465. Kylie Minogue Velvetina bedding, from £16 for a pillowcase, Next. Cottingham Safari chaise sofa (right), Chaise Longue Boutique, from £1,155



### DECORATING TIP *'To achieve a contemporary, minimalist look,*

#### 1 & 2 MASTER SUITE

**The clean lines and all-white scheme make this a tranquil space to unwind in.**

Victoria & Albert Napoli volcanic limestone freestanding oval bath L1909mm, £2,153, The Alternative Bathroom Company. Antique river wash floor tiles in Tumbled finish, £62m sq, The Stone Collection. Find a stone candle holder, £24, at J'Adore Décor. SBH long and low chrome towel rail, £300, Plumbase

living space. As windows are the couple's business, it's no surprise that they have incorporated the very latest advances, choosing options that are tinted to provide privacy and sun protection, retaining heat or deflecting it where necessary.

During the build, Lisa enjoyed putting together a mood board full of decorating

ideas. 'I spent hours sourcing furniture, lighting, and accessories online, but it was all worth it,' she says. Stacey was keen for the children to have en-suite bedrooms and plenty of storage, too. 'They had input by helping choose their bathroom floors and wardrobes,' say Lisa. 'Being a part of the process has made them appreciate the house



*start with a white canvas and make sure you incorporate plenty of storage'*

more.' The family was keen on a white canvas, so they painted the entire house in Dulux Diamond White matt emulsion. Adding pops of colour here and there, such as the Lhouette artwork in the kitchen, helped to lift and enhance the scheme. Polished concrete with underfloor heating is laid throughout most of the ground floor

and 'although it isn't cheap,' admits Lisa, 'it is extremely durable, practical and stylish'.

The family finally moved into their home in spring 2013. 'We had moments of frustration, of course,' reveals Lisa, 'not to mention exhaustion. But this space has changed the way we live and we couldn't be more delighted.' 25

### 3 HONAYA'S BEDROOM

**Honaya chose a pastels and red scheme.**

Isabella white bed base, £425, Next, is a match. Cushions and made-to-measure blind, Azest

### 4 JAZDON'S BEDROOM

**A footie-themed room with lots of storage.**

Lira Contemporary king-size bed, £370, Trendy Products. The Porto 2-seater red sofa bed, £550, Habitat, is a similar streamlined model



# THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

When Harry Diamond set about decorating, he realised he had a strong vision of a fairy-tale flat

FEATURE KATE HILL | PHOTOGRAPHY LIZZIE ORME

## SITTING ROOM

Harry created a neutral backdrop for his antiques and curiosities.

Walls painted in Skimming Stone estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, and floor in Stony Ground floor paint, £58 for 2.5 litres, both Farrow & Ball. Similar Harlequin reclaimed teak wood coffee table, £695, Alexander & Pearl

## UNIQUE



## HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** A flat in a detached Victorian villa

**LOCATION** Sussex

**ROOMS** Sitting room, dining room, reading room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2007

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'I bought a flat in Brighton when I was 17 but after six years, I wanted to buy a place in my hometown,' says Harry.

Stepping through the door of Harry Diamond's Victorian flat in East Sussex is like walking into the pages of a magical storybook. Every room is a celebration of nature, texture, art and antiques, all set to a theme of fairy tales with a strangely compelling dark edge.

Until recently, Harry was travelling the world as a music producer and DJ. 'In 2012, after 13 years, I decided to stop travelling, but I had very little idea of what I wanted to do next,' he says. Harry had bought his top-floor flat in 2007 and initially did very little to it. But suddenly having

some time on his hands resulted in a creative explosion. 'I painted a wall one day and didn't stop for three years, by which time I'd changed literally everything in the place,' he says.

Never a man to do things by half, Harry had a clear vision and great determination when it came to transforming his flat. 'Everything I love always seems exceptionally heavy, which has been a real challenge,' he says. 'But luckily I have some great trade contacts and also some talented friends who helped me along the way.'

The kitchen was Harry's most extreme challenge. He wanted to lay some 2.5cm-thick





**DINING ROOM**  
**This elegant stone dining set was chosen for its lovely patina.**  
 Similar travertine table, £1,595, Stanze Interiors. Cognac Pewter crystal ball chandelier, £395, Alexander & Pearl, is a good match



**READING ROOM**  
**The wall quote in MDF letters was made by an artist friend.**  
 For wooden letters try The Wooden Letters Company, from £2.10. Antique chandelier, £595, Michael Keehan. Rug, £125, Hide Rugs



**KITCHEN**  
**The unit handles were made to Harry's design by a blacksmith.**  
 Cathedral limestone antique floor tiles, £154.98sq m, Fired Earth, are comparable. Try Abodent for unusual handles



**HALL**  
**Harry's hall is so full of antiques that it looks a little like an art gallery.**  
 Similar glass grape light, £195, Artiquea. You can find antiques Harry can bear to part with at [Harrydiamondantiques.com](http://Harrydiamondantiques.com). For super-sized mirrors from £132.50, try The Chandelier & Mirror Company



## BEDROOM

'The wallpaper represents stars and clouds with the sun (mirror) coming through,' explains Harry.

Barneby Gates All Star wallpaper, £78 per roll, Rockett St George. Cole & Son Nuvolette paper, £240 for two rolls, Wallpaper Direct



## BATHROOM

'I created grandeur in here with a black- and gold-based colour scheme,' says Harry.

Similar Imperium bath with gold exterior, from £2276, The Albion Bath Company. Marcel Key Muse wallpaper, £35 per roll, Graham & Brown

salvaged flagstones from a Belgian church but this meant carrying them up four flights of stairs, then lifting the floor to strengthen the joists before they could be laid.

The kitchen units were handmade from silvered sea groin and had to be built on site because the pieces of wood were so warped. 'It took six months of constant mess and problems to overcome, but it was worth it,' insists Harry. 'A builder told me once that anything can be done, so that's what I go by. If the door frame has to come off to fit something in, or if a window has to come out – then, so be it!'

Harry attributes his distinctive style to the influence of nature, books and films. 'I love fairy tales and am very inspired by watching the movies of Tim Burton, Guillermo del Toro and Peter Jackson,' he says. 'The bedroom decor was inspired by a romantic fairy tale about two people who create a fantasy world together. And the other rooms just seem to evolve. In the sitting room, I started by creating a neutral background, and once a few skull and crossbones

were added, the room took on a brown, chalk and rust colour scheme,' he explains.

Finding the furniture to go with this look hasn't always been easy. 'I find everyday furniture a bit boring and not sculptural and textured enough,' says Harry. 'So I've ended up designing a lot of it and commissioning someone to make it, which is very fulfilling.'

The antiques and curiosities that furnish the flat were sourced far and wide from dealers, fairs and online. And Harry has discovered such a passion for searching out beautiful objects that he has no intention of stopping. 'With antiques, you never know what you might find on a daily basis and that's the excitement and buzz that continues to motivate me,' he says.

In fact, Harry has now decided to make sourcing and selling antiques his new career and has recently launched a website and showroom where he sells some of his finds. 'It's been a very natural progression to turn my hobby into my job,' says Harry. 'The challenge is to get better at buying things that I'm happy to sell on!' 25

## FAVOURITE SHOP

*'I love Spencer Swaffer Antiques in Arundel. It's full of the best items you will ever see and is situated in an amazing building which dates back to the 15th century'*



# BE INSPIRED BY HARRY'S UNIQUE DESIGN DETAILS



Every surface is home to a display. Similar mini mushrooms, from £9, Siiren



Harry had a photo of his own printed up as wallpaper. Print your own wallpaper, £100sq m, Lucyart.co.uk



The framed quote is made with letter tiles. Rory Dobner tiles, £39.50 each, Liberty





#### DINING AREA

These vintage glasses are among Isabelle's favourite possessions. 'I like to have a few things around me that have some history,' she says.

Clarence Big Brother chandelier, £200, Glo.uk, Vitra Eames DSW chairs, £332, each, John Lewis, Ikea PS white cabinet, £70. Walls painted in Graystone Helmmatt, £33.50 for 2.5 litres, Eicó Paints

# INSIDE OUT

Isabelle Peterson-Reid and her husband Simon reshaped their tiny house into a spacious family home with a green outlook

FEATURE RENÉE GREEN | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID GILES





**KITCHEN**  
Glossy white units help lift this dark and dramatic scheme. Metod base cabinets in Ringhult white, from £74 each, Ikea. Mak barstools, £320 each, Chaplins

#### INSPIRING



### HOME TRUTHS

#### THE PROPERTY

Victorian terraced house

#### LOCATION

Southwest London

**ROOMS** Sitting/dining room, kitchen, music room/guest room, three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room

**PURCHASED** 2005

#### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we lived in a two-bedroom flat, which we also renovated,' says Isabelle.







Isabelle Peterson-Reid and her husband Simon had a simple list of criteria when they decided to move from their much-loved, but outgrown southwest London flat. 'We wanted to stay in the area and find a house with a good-sized garden on a quiet family road,' says Isabelle. 'But, after viewing many places, we found that there were very few properties available that fitted this description.'

However, their efforts were eventually repaid when they viewed a small Victorian terrace nearby with bags of potential. 'We instantly fell in love with both the garden and house, despite it being on a busy road and needing a major overhaul,' recalls Isabelle, an artist who trained as an interior designer before having children.

'At the time, the property had only two bedrooms, with a self-contained one-bedroom basement flat. So our main objectives were to completely renovate the lower-ground level for rental, and create a loft extension to gain extra space for our growing family, which includes Simon's daughter Ella, 18, and our sons Noa, 12, Enzo, 8, and Leon, 4.'

Over the past decade, the couple have renovated and refurbished the rest of the house, doing most of it – bar building work – themselves. 'We inherited a kitchen with floor-to-ceiling cupboards along one side, which felt extremely narrow. So we extended and remodelled

DECORATING ADVICE 'When it comes to colour, think outside of the box and be daring – if



## 1 & 2 SITTING AREA

Original artwork appears throughout the property. 'Grey walls make them really stand out,' says Isabelle. 'Plus the colour somehow makes a room feel much lighter.'

Skull 3 artwork by Isabelle Peterson-Reid, around £1,400, [saatchionline.com/Isapr](http://saatchionline.com/Isapr). Ponte coffee table, from £590, Chaplins. Tencel velvet gunmetal rug, from £363, Nina Burgess. Habitat's Spencer leather sofa,

£2,800, is a similar design to this one

## 3 MASTER BEDROOM

Isabelle has had lots of fun upcycling existing pieces of furniture including a pair of old Ikea bedside drawers, which she painted black and added new handles for a chic new look. Malm four-drawer white chest; Malm three-drawer black chest, both £49, Ikea. Florence duck-egg throw, £25, John Lewis, has this look



the space completely,' explains Isabelle. While this small structure didn't require planning permission, extending the loft did, and Isabelle and Simon prepared the designs themselves to include two extra bedrooms, plus a shower room.

Besides adding extra square footage, the couple have also maximised the existing space, most recently reworking the family bathroom. 'It was a completely different style before – quite stark and not very practical to use,' says Isabelle. 'We gutted the room and created two interconnecting areas with a sliding door, so I also got a hideaway laundry area, which is very useful with six of us in the house.' The most versatile room belongs to Ella, however. 'When she's not staying with us, her room turns into a music, movie, games or guest room – whatever we need at the time,' says Isabelle.

Her creative eye and artistic talent is apparent throughout the newly finished house. As well as Isabelle's artwork decorating the walls, she has chosen paint colours that are 'both calming and a bit dramatic'. She is keen, too, that her home should remain an ever-evolving design.

'Every time we think we're done, I get yet another idea and another project begins,' says Isabelle. 'In fact, it's not unusual for Simon to travel for a few days and come back to a house with a different colour on the walls or reupholstered furniture. I just can't stop myself!'



**FAMILY BATHROOM**  
A sliding door is used to separate each zone whenever necessary. Canada white wash porcelain floor tiles, £109.46sq m, Porcelanosa

*a dark wall doesn't come out the way you hoped, remember you can always paint over it again'*

#### 4 ELLA'S BEDROOM

**A daring palette and a variety of musical instruments give this multi-use room a fun, arty feel.**

Album 5 collection wallpaper *Wilde Chrysanthemum* by Osborne & Little, £64 per roll, Wallpaper Direct, is an excellent alternative to this discontinued design. *Flamingo* oil on canvas artwork by Isabelle Peterson-Reid, around £1,400, [saatchionline.com/Isapir](http://saatchionline.com/Isapir)

#### 5 NOA'S BEDROOM

**Isabelle has created a sense of drama with her clever use of colour. Here, the single dark-painted wall, vivid green wardrobe and other pops of colour contrast well with an otherwise monochrome scheme.**

Stuva storage combination with green doors, from £120; Ivor black-and-white throw, £15; and Stockholm handmade flat-woven rug, £100, all Ikea







REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** Former police station, built in 1895

**LOCATION** Edinburgh

**ROOMS** Sitting room, kitchen-diner, playroom, four bedrooms, bathroom, shower room

**PURCHASED** 2013

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'Our last home was a two-bedroom ground-floor flat a few blocks from here,' says Henry.



# In the NICK OF TIME







## SITTING ROOM

**'Everything here came from our last home and it all fits perfectly,' says Henry.**

Walls painted in Hardwick White estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball.

For a similar sofa try the large Hertford upholstered two-seater sofa in Adele Dove Grey, £1,500; Paxford upholstered footstool is similar, £500, both Laura Ashley. Mirano mirror in grey, £250, Maisons du Monde

## *Henry and Elena Beckett worked against the clock to transform a former constabulary headquarters into a place to settle down*

FEATURE MAIRI MACDONALD | PHOTOGRAPHY DOUGLAS GIBB

**W**hen Henry Beckett and his wife Elena came to the UK, having worked abroad for many years, they decided to settle down in Scotland. 'We moved from Turkmenistan, where Elena is from and where I was working, and thought Edinburgh would be a great city to live in,' says Henry.

Henry had visited the city when his sister was at art school and loved the clean, wide streets and handsome Georgian buildings. 'We initially bought in the south of the city but decided we'd like to live in the New Town so we could walk everywhere,' he says. The couple's last home was a two-bedroom Georgian flat with high ceilings but, with their second child on the way, the priority was no longer the size of the rooms, but the number.

So when they came across a two-bedroom former police station in a fashionable area known

for its vintage shops, restaurants, boutiques and an excellent primary school, they quickly realised it would make a perfect home for their growing family. 'It had been occupied by the same lady for 30 years and was in need of modernisation,' explains Henry. 'But we saw how much potential it had.'

The one-storey building overlooking the Water of Leith had an enormous attic with excellent expansion potential. 'The attic was accessed through an awkward hatch in the ceiling, but had space for three further rooms and a bathroom,' says Henry. 'So it was ripe for development. We love renovating and upgrading properties and have recently both begun to do it full time through our company, Beckett Developments, so we're always on the lookout for potential projects.'

With a baby on the way, Henry and Elena chose to stay in their previous property while the

## 1 & 2 KITCHEN-DINER

**By removing the wall between the kitchen and dining room, the couple have created a great space for family and friends.**

Chairs painted in Plummet estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. The Light Wood Wine Barrel Stave Chandelier is a perfect match, £325, Shades of Light. Creative engineered hardwood flooring, £40sq m, Edinburgh Carpet and Flooring Warehouse. Old pine school cupboard, £150, Courtyard Antiques



renovations took place. Their new home required rewiring, replumbing and re-roofing, while the wall between the kitchen and dining room was knocked down and the attic developed.

Before long, the building had radically changed its shape and size. Sacrificing a small room at the back of the house, an architect designed the staircase to run up alongside the original back bedroom wall to best access the floor above. In the attic, a master bedroom was fitted at one end of the space, two smaller bedrooms in the middle and a bathroom at the other end, with Velux windows providing light.

Downstairs, the kitchen-diner overlooks the river at the back of the property, while a sitting room,

children's playroom and fourth bedroom has also been carved out of the layout, with a practical shower room replacing the original cramped bathroom.

Henry and Elena have kept the decor simple by painting the walls in muted colours, allowing their vibrant paintings, rugs and accessories to shine. Dotted around their home are treasures collected from their travels. Period furniture inherited from Henry's family nestles among vintage finds from antiques shops. The result is a charming home for the couple and their boys, Bertie, 2 and Harry, 1. 'We moved in after six months – just in time, as now, baby number three is on the way,' says Henry. 'Luckily, there's plenty of room for a growing family.' 25

## 1 BATHROOM

**This brand new space in the attic has a heritage feel.**

Tub with Savoy panel, £304, Bathstore. Retro Metro wall tiles, £74.98sq m; Dorzano limestone floor tiles, £69.91sq m, both Fired Earth

## 2 BERTIE'S ROOM

**The soft colour palette continues in here, creating a feeling of calm.**

Cupboards painted in Plummet estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Papier-mâché animal busts, from £48, Anthropologie

## MASTER BEDROOM

**Velux windows on both sides of the room fill the space with light.**

Svelvik bed, £210, Ikea. French two-drawer bedside table, £159, La Maison Chic. Etienne double bedspread, £120, The White Company. Paintings by Nicky Beckett, price on application



**INSPIRATION** *'Many of our ideas for colours and textures are from the countries we have lived and travelled in and we love to pick up objects wherever we go'*



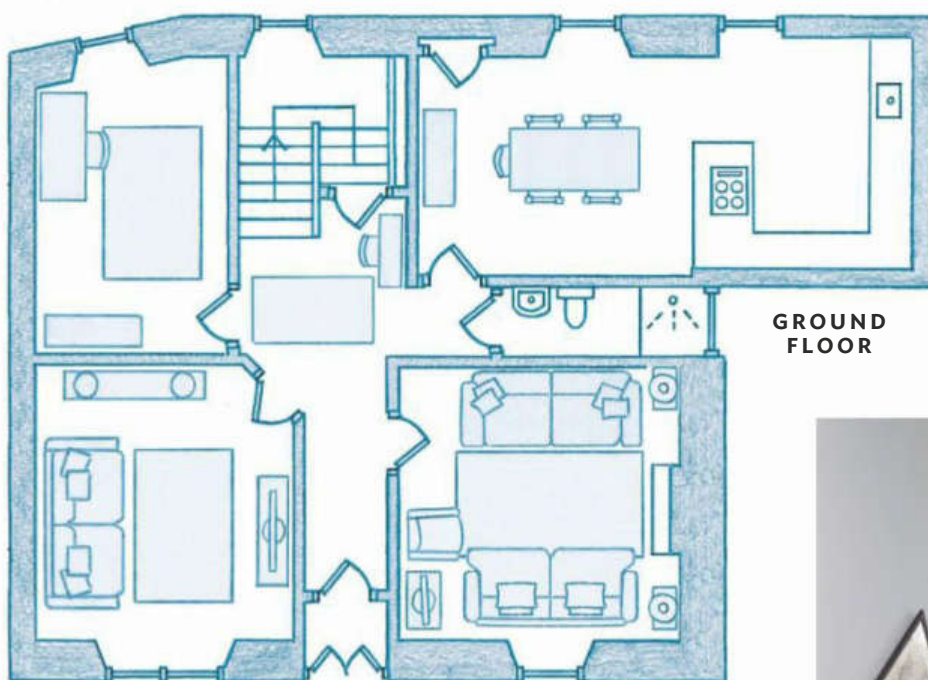


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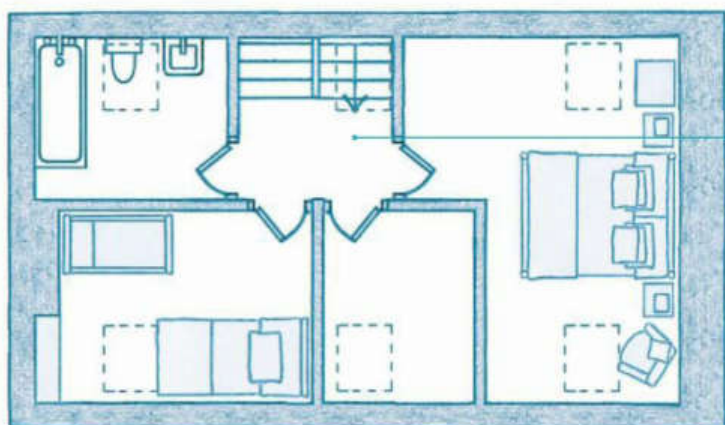


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## AFTER

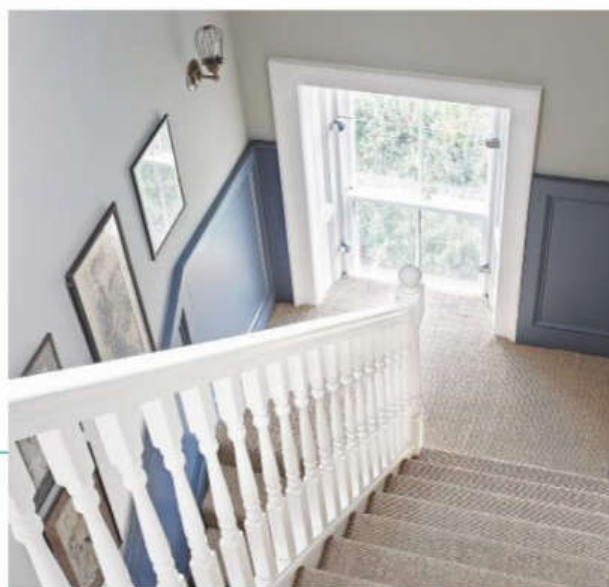
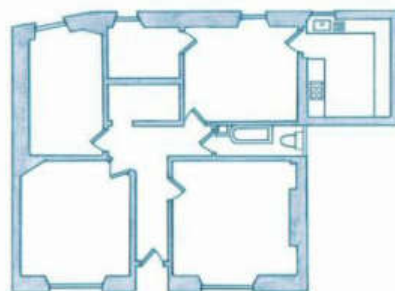


GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

## BEFORE



## REPLANNED

Sacrificing one small back bedroom has made space for a traditional wooden staircase leading up from the downstairs hall. The original window has been cleverly cut in half with the top section lighting the staircase and the bottom half lighting the new cupboard under the stairs.





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### SITTING ROOM

'The blue sofa used to be tatty cream leather but we decided to have some fun with it and had it re-covered in a bright blue,' says Deborah.

Sofa re-upholstered by First Choice, for similar fabric try Cortina Blue velvet, Modelli Fabrics, £29.95m. Barcelona chair, £450, Modacor is near-identical. For a similar ceiling light try Koge Ball pendant lamp, from £89, Urbanara.co.uk. Sergio Mirror, £195, Exclusive Mirrors is a match

### INSPIRING



### HOME TRUTHS

#### THE PROPERTY

1950s red-brick semi

**LOCATION** Belfast

**ROOMS** Open-plan sitting room/kitchen-diner, with piano and family areas, cloakroom, three bedrooms (one ensuite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2011

#### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before this, we lived in a terraced house nearby,' says Deborah.

# COLOUR THERAPY

*Deborah and Graham Moore turned a run-down semi into the perfect backdrop for fun and bright vintage finds*

FEATURE MANDI MILLAR | PHOTOGRAPHY ASHLEY MORRISON

### KITCHEN

Deborah and Graham bought the hood for this space first, and then designed the room around it. Designair curved cooker hood, £987, B&Q, is comparable. Arosa Mobilia units, £10,000, Interior 360



### FAMILY AREA

'Our coffee table came from Gumtree.com - the wood adds a lovely warmth as everything else here is quite pale,' explains Deborah. Pouffes, from £90, TK Maxx. Lövbacken three-legged table, £60, Ikea



### DINING ROOM

Graham built the pew from wood scraps. For fun wall letters, from £2, try Notonthehighstreet.com. For a similar design dining table try the Clintock, £600, Furniture in Fashion



### PIANO AREA

'My mum bought us the baby grand many years ago,' says Deborah. Pop art pictures, Habitat, for similar try Allposters.co.uk. For piano try Yamaha Music London



Some might not even have looked inside the tired old semi with no heating or electricity and overgrown front garden, but for Deborah and Graham Moore the neglected building in East Belfast seemed perfect. 'We'd been living in a three-bedroom terraced house not far away but we wanted a "project", somewhere we could make our mark,' explains Deborah. 'This place ticked all the boxes, and on top of that it had a lovely atmosphere.'

The last owner was elderly, so not much had been done to the house for quite a while. 'But that meant the property still had some

lovely original features,' says Deborah, 'such as a gorgeous ceiling lamp in the hall, which now hangs in the porch, and the original solid wood floors in the hall and the front sitting room.'

However, that is just about all that the last owner would recognise, as Deborah and Graham have transformed the property into a colourful, funky space, filled with their own quintessential sense of fun. 'Our vision was to have a large kitchen-diner-living area, which would be the heart of the home,' says Deborah. 'We brought in local architects who just "got" what we were about and shared the vision,





**HALL**  
‘When we go on trips we buy pictures of where we’ve been and hang them here,’ says Deborah. For a good range of frames from £6.50, try Houseology



**MASTER BEDROOM**  
The quirky, colourful wallpaper helps make this a fun space. Floral cushions, Avoca, for similar try Flowers and Butterflies cushion, £19.99, Zara Home. Hemnes tables, £40, Ikea. Notonthehighstreet.com is a good place to source wallpaper like this, from £180 per roll



**GUEST BEDROOM**  
Mirrored cabinets reflect extra light. Lamps, Habitat, for similar try Resin, £60, Zara Home. Shard cabinets, £186, Wren Living suit this style



**BATHROOM**  
Deborah opted for hotel-style luxe here. ‘It’s practical and stylish,’ she says. Twyford Vello basin, £706.95, Bathrooms Plus would work well in this space

and basically, we removed the back of the house and built a big box on the far left corner, and added another floor on top of that.’

Above the extension, the couple created a new master bedroom, by using space from the original third bedroom and corridor. This gave the new area space for an en suite and walk-in wardrobe. ‘We also knocked the bathroom and toilet into one. And downstairs, the old larder was just about big enough to accommodate a cloakroom,’ says Deborah, who along with Graham, lived in their old house for a year while most of the major building work was carried out on the new house. ‘It would have been an ordeal to live there among the builders – not to mention dusty!’ she reasons.

However, not everything went according to plan – the kitchen held a nasty surprise for them. ‘When it came to fitting the cabinetry, even though the builder and the design planner had measured

meticulously, the units failed to fit in on arrival,’ recalls Deborah. ‘It turned out the measurements were taken before the plaster went on the walls, which had slightly reduced the space. All the plaster had to come off and the whole area was re-skimmed – more thinly this time.’

With catastrophe averted and the builders finally out of the house, the couple were able to put their idiosyncratic stamp on the property. ‘We wanted our home to be fun and happy and we both love colour, but on a plain background so that we can add splashes of it,’ explains Deborah. ‘We like design classics as well as thrift shop finds, and we’ve proved you don’t have to spend a fortune to get that look.’

Deborah and Graham got married while decorating their inspiring house. ‘We have filled the place with colour and fun and plenty of happy memories,’ she muses. ‘No matter which room we walk into, it makes us smile. You can’t ask for more from your home.’ 25

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REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY**

Detached remodelled house, built in the 1950s

**LOCATION** Buckinghamshire

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms, dressing room, two bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2010

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'Before moving here, we lived in an old vicarage in a quiet village nearby,' explains Prue.

# CLASSIC MIX

*A comfortable combination of one-off pieces add character to Prue and George Manolescue's pared-back interior*

**FEATURE** NATALIE FLAUM  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** ADAM LUSZNAK



**SITTING ROOM**

'This large space has been separated into two distinct zones – a cosy end with the fire and a bright area that overlooks the garden,' says Prue.

Howard armchair, from £1,875, The Sofa & Chair Company. For a similar woodburner try the Pioneer 400, £1,128, Clearview Stoves. Wooden painted barrel stool, £245, Furnish.co.uk, is a match







#### KITCHEN-DINER

**Bright accessories add a pop of colour in this otherwise neutral interior.**

Silestone worktops by Cosentino, from £495sq m, The Marble Workshop. Cabinets painted in Shaded White estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



Having moved house 11 times, Prue Manolescue and her husband George are experts at renovating and have a flair for creating relaxed and elegant homes. 'I'm from Bristol and George grew up in London,' explains Prue. 'Since having our three girls, who are now all grown up with families of their own, we've lived in all sorts of properties here in Buckinghamshire.'

About five years ago, when the couple were looking to downsize, Prue discovered the ideal spot. 'We had just sold our former home when I saw this house in a local newspaper,' she says. 'It had a smaller garden than our last place but more internal space. Plus, it was just a five-minute drive from George's office.'

One year before they bought the property, a builder had purchased the 1950s bungalow on the plot and had partly demolished it, leaving just one original wall. It was then converted into a four-bedroom home that was only partially finished when the couple saw it. But there were advantages to its incomplete







#### GUEST BEDROOM

**A simple and calm scheme creates a luxurious environment.**

Walls painted in Dimity estate emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. John Lewis' plain velvet cushions in sulphur, £25 each, are near-identical

state. 'It meant we could have some say on a few of the finishing touches,' says Prue. 'We chose the woodburner in the sitting room and the bathroom fittings. We also selected the kitchen worktops and the colours of the units.'

When the couple moved in, they were confronted with magnolia walls throughout and sloped ceilings in the master bedroom. 'To make a feature of the angular eaves, I painted them white, and then opted for gentle shades of blue and green on the walls as a subtle contrast,' says Prue. But the alterations didn't stop there, they also enlarged the door openings from the snug and kitchen, replaced the UPVC front door with a wooden design, added French windows in the sitting room

**LAST WORD**  
*'I'm a big believer in taking your time. I've just ordered a large rug for under the kitchen table – it's taken me five years to choose it, but I won't be rushed!'*

#### BATHROOM

**'I love the size of this room – I can fit all four grandchildren in the bath,' laughs Prue.**

Campione tumbled limestone wall tiles, £35.98m sq, Mandarin Stone, are comparable. Chateau dressing table, £249, The Cotswold Company, is similar



#### MASTER BEDROOM

**Beautiful dark wood antiques add texture and character.**

Cameron bespoke bed upholstered in stone coloured linen, from £700, Feather & Black. Maisons du Monde is a good place to source antique-style chests of drawers like this one, from £199



and swapped the kitchen door with a wider panelled version that opens out to the garden.

For the furnishings, Prue's fondness for antiques, coloured glassware, rustic wood and artwork is evident. 'Every single piece of furniture tells a story,' she says. 'I rarely buy anything from chain stores. Instead, I collect one-off pieces from antiques shops or places we've visited. Also, our daughter Sarah is an artist and we love displaying her work.'

So after 30 years of moving, have Prue and George found their forever home? 'My other daughter Kate is an architect and interior designer, so we're always talking about houses,' laughs Prue. 'But as George and I have got older, we've realised that we don't want to live with a lot of things, so our interiors are more pared back. This place has a calm feel – when I step inside, I can relax.'

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# SAFE HAVEN

*Growing up in a war-stricken country, Najwa Mroue never envisaged she would find her dream family home*

FEATURE BEVERLEY BYRNE | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE





#### DINING AREA

A statement painting by Stephen Farley creates a striking contrast with the blue bench seat – the look is tied together with lights designed by Najwa. Table, £1,300, Kent and London. Rochelle chairs, £249 each, Made. Bench, £1,400, Ben Whistler. Handblown blue pendant lights, £870, Rothschild & Bickers

#### UNIQUE



#### HOME TRUTHS

##### THE PROPERTY

Early 19th-century cottage

**LOCATION** West London

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room/dining room, kitchen, cloakroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2014

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'Before we bought this place, we lived in a flat nearby,' says Najwa.





#### SITTING ROOM

**Vintage designs add colour and light.**

Najwa designed the table made from recycled materials from Bell+Roue Interior Design, £12,000. Leather sofa, £4,800, Natuzzi. Black-and-white chair, £1,300, Togo from Ligne Roset



Since spending her childhood in war ravaged Beirut, interior designer Najwa Mroue dreamed of a secure home and luxuries many people take for granted. 'Many things were destroyed, and we always had to make do,' says Najwa. 'But I learned to value what we did have and to treasure items that could be given a new lease of life.'

Years later, when Najwa and her husband Karim Bazzi viewed a west London cottage that was built for soldiers returning from the Napoleonic wars, she knew it could be the answer to her childhood dream. 'Behind the traditional façade, the unusual combination of a modern open-plan space opening onto a walled garden with a 1970s

spiral staircase centre stage sold it to us,' says Najwa. 'However, the staircase was painted red, like much of the house, including the kitchen tiles and doors. It was also very rickety so we started by reinforcing it with scaffolding poles and panels before having it repainted.'

Once a new kitchen and en suite had been fitted, Najwa set about creating an interior featuring her trademark blend of Mid-Century modern meets contemporary design, embellished by a collection of eclectic curiosities. Lighting plays a key role in her design process. 'As electricity in Beirut was rationed, I had to study by candlelight,' she says. 'For a long time I disliked candles and dimmers because I valued bright light above all. But now I love to play with lighting and had fun



#### KITCHEN

**Bronze tiles give a splash of glamour to this otherwise all-white scheme.**

Metallic bronze tiles, £48.95sq m, Walls and Floors, are similar. Kitchen units, £20,000, Oak and Willow Joinery







### FAVOURITE SHOP

*'I love Ollie Bow & Son. The owner travels the world to find interesting pieces – it never fails to lift my spirits'*

### MASTER BEDROOM

This area benefits from a veranda overlooking the walled garden.

Juniper bed, £1,375, And So To Bed. Flowerpot pendant lights, £165 each, Houseology

designing the dining room pendants using copper piping. I also commissioned an artist to write "the electricity is back on" in Arabic on the stairwell walls in gold. It's a daily reminder of how lucky we are.'

From the bronze splashback in the kitchen to the mirrored Art Deco coffee table, gold is a recurring colour in Najwa's home. 'I love it because it lends warmth and reflects light,' she says. 'It really makes a statement.' The same can be said of the antique mirror in the dining area. 'Rooms benefit from a striking piece, and when I found this mirror, I knew it would enhance the illusion of space and grandeur.'

This is a home that fuses vintage chic with contemporary touches, producing an interior that is entertaining, imaginative, creative and

comforting. 'We haven't stuck to one particular theme or era for the decor, because I find the quirkier it is, the better,' explains Najwa.

'I love antiques that represent a design statement born out of necessity, such as my husband's 1960s radiogram. I enjoy finding an alternative way to give them another chance to shine.' For instance, the artwork above the bed in the bedroom is a Mexican door that's 150 years old. Before this, it was used as a coffee table by Najwa's mother-in-law.

Now the couple's home also accommodates their son Ramsey, 5, and the focus is firmly on family life. 'This house gives us the chance to bring up our son in a peaceful environment,' says Najwa. 'Every day, it keeps me grounded and reminds me that chaos can be overcome.' 25



### EN SUITE

*'I love the tree motif wallpaper – it's the perfect contrast against the tiles,' says Najwa.*  
Woods wallpaper, £72 per roll, Cole & Son. Metro tiles, £19.50sq m, Topps Tiles



**RAMSEY'S BEDROOM**  
A pirate theme is ideal for this space.  
Pirate cabin bed, £200, Noa & Nani





# VIVID IMAGINATION

Jan and David Constantine brought new life to a Georgian property with bold hues and unique textiles

**FEATURE** MAGGIE COLVIN  
**PHOTOGRAPHY** SPIKE POWELL



**DINING ROOM**  
Bright blue walls make a vibrant backdrop to the white chairs and dark beams. Colours Blue Capri matt emulsion is a good match, £19.84 for 2.5 litres, B&Q

Until we successfully bid for this house, I had only ever bought a cupboard at an auction,' says textile designer Jan Constantine, remembering the day she and her husband David bid for the Old Doctors House. 'We were visiting my sister in Cheshire and saw the property advertised in a local newspaper.'

It was irresistibly pretty, with a perfect Georgian façade encircled by hedgerows and lush green rolling fields, plus a separate garage and stable block with paddock and old bakehouse thrown in. 'We hadn't even put our London flat on the market, but we were determined to buy it and we reckoned the flat would sell quite quickly,' recalls Jan. So while their solicitor offered sobering warnings about the high costs of a bridging loan, Jan and David put in their top bid, and it worked out exactly as they had hoped. Their place sold in less than a week. 'After that,' says Jan, 'we heaved a sigh of relief, then excitement set in and it was a case of all hands on deck.'

The property was once part of a big country estate that had been empty for several years, so when David and Jan moved in with their two girls, Camille, then 8, and Mary, 3, there was much work to be done. Jan



### SITTING ROOM

'This space is welcoming in winter and pretty in summer,' says Jan, who handpainted the pink walls and tree. For a similar reclaimed fireplace, try Lasso. Fuchsia velvet Minster sofa, from £5,698 plus fabric; zebra skin covered Norris bench stool, £2,957, both George Smith

### INSPIRING



### HOME TRUTHS

#### THE PROPERTY

Converted doctors house and surgery, built in 1830

**LOCATION** Cheshire

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study, five bedrooms, three bathrooms

**PURCHASED** 2005

#### PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We last lived in a Victorian semi in southwest London,' says Jan.







#### KITCHEN

This room centres around a large table put together by Jan's father using salvaged table legs.

Love kitchen tea towels, £7; oven glove, £20; yellow and white gingham, £16 for 100cm sq; Union Jack platter, £75, all Jan Constantine

#### DECORATING TIPS

*'Intense jewel-like colours are uplifting and such a boost on a grey day, while silver leaf is opulent and glamorous'*



recalls the fur growing on loose quarry tiles under layers of old lino, ceilings falling in, rotten beams and floorboards. Fortunately her creative imagination, coupled with David's DIY abilities paid off. Over the years, the former surgery has gradually been transformed beyond all recognition.

The first breakthrough was when David hacked through the kitchen wall behind the 1950s fireplace and exposed an archway above an alcove where the old range once stood. 'We removed about 30 sacks of rubble,' says Jan. While David worked on the house, replacing 1960s fireplaces with reclamation originals and repairing floorboards, Jan picked up furniture and accessories. Having sold her first range of cushions to Fortnum & Mason and Liberty, she exhibited in New York and came back with two large suitcases filled with extraordinary items being sold by a film props company. 'Nothing cost more than five dollars apiece,' she says.

As a designer who started in the fashion world and then built a recognised British brand renowned for striking hand-embroidered textiles, Jan is always keen to explore new ideas. Her cushion ranges are constantly expanding and they ring the changes in her own home, too. From silver leaf-lined walls in the dining room, to fuchsia pink in the sitting room adorned with handpainted trees and butterflies, Jan's investment in bright colours produces a joyful ambience, especially in the kitchen where the walls are painted in a glowing yellow.

'Colour is an inspiration for me and being surrounded by certain shades can change my mood,' says Jan. In her house, she has used both vibrant hues and soft pastel tones, and in recent years, she has explored the power of black and white, too. But there will always be room for another cushion. 'Accessories can do what new shoes do for an old dress,' says Jan. 'And nowhere is that more evident than here.' 25



#### KITCHEN

One section of the wall was decorated to look like old stonework as a trial run for a mural commission.

For similar posters, from £13, try Art.co.uk. Crown cushion, £92; Love shopping bag, £70, both Jan Constantine. Walls painted in Dulux Yellow Submarine tough matt, £16 for 2.5 litres, Homebase





**CAMILLE'S BEDROOM**  
A vintage cupboard has been painted, the shelves edged in lace and filled with treasures. Cupboard painted in Wimborne White estate eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



**MASTER BEDROOM**  
Jan handpainted a hanging that sits behind the antique bed, creating a pretty focal point. Barometer lamp, £27 each, Ikea. Wimborne White floor paint, £58 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Antique beaded mirror is similar, from £90, Graham & Green



**BATHROOM**  
Shades of blue, from intense cobalt to pale sky, make a dramatic impact here. For a tub like this, try Lassco, from £3,600



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# SITTING ROOM

Frosted window film was used to provide privacy, while also maintaining maximum light.

Bespoke film, from £18m, Brume. Zinc star carnival light, £65, Cox & Cox.

Nightingale sofa, £1,525, The French Bedroom Company, is comparable.

Walls painted in Egyptian Cotton matt emulsion, £18.99 for 2.5 litres, Dulux

## BACK TO LIFE

*Sympathetic restoration and modern styling blends old and new to create a relaxed interior in Kathryn Hender and Ryan Clifford's Edwardian home*

FEATURE LIZ COOPER | PHOTOGRAPHY LOL JOHNSON





#### OFFICE

**A double-length desk and 'his and hers' chairs create a productive workspace.**

Nic large white steel trestle, £60, Habitat. Eames DAW armchair, £411, John Lewis. Urban Outfitters sells chevron rugs like this one, from £35

**W**hen Kathryn Hender and Ryan Clifford decided to take the plunge and move in together, they ended up taking on a run-down renovation project that was certainly not the natural choice for a pair of inexperienced first-time buyers. Having both lived with their parents for a few years in order to save for a deposit, they were keen to find a place they could finally call their own. Kathryn, an interiors stylist, was especially eager to find a property in which she could unleash her own creativity and design flair.

'So when this unloved period end-of-terrace came on the market we jumped on it straight away, immediately seeing the potential it held,' says Kathryn. 'Although our parents did all they could to dissuade us because of the renovation work involved, we loved the original features and huge garden, as well as the fact that it didn't have any awkward extensions or dodgy Artex like other similar period houses we had seen.'

However, the house wasn't without some major problems. An elderly lady had previously rented the property and it had since fallen into a state of disrepair. It hadn't been touched since the 1950s and was in desperate need of a total overhaul. 'We stayed at our parents' homes while the house was gutted and work started, which made life a lot easier,' explains Kathryn. 'We recruited the help of a local builder friend who worked on a day rate instead of quoting for the whole job, which substantially lowered costs. We were able to put our trust in him to guide us in the right direction on aspects we knew little about.'

The house had problems with damp, timber and wall ties, as well as needing to be completely repointed and rewired, while new pipes were laid for central heating. Ceilings

#### I HALL

**Quirky decor defines this area from the rest of the open-plan living space.**

Jubilee wall hanging, £965, The Rug Company. Find vintage wooden sledges, from £45 at Colonial Soldier. Stairs painted in Juniper Ash intelligent eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene

#### 2 & 3 KITCHEN

**A tonal focal point in this cream-and-taupe scheme, the woodland-print wallpaper cleverly draws in the vista from outdoors.**

Cole & Son Woods wallpaper in taupe, £72 per roll, Tangletree Interiors. Encore worktop in Glacier, from £304 for 2,020 x 650 x 44cm, Bushboard. Deca 150 sink, £565; Elen Optima tap, £255, both Carron Phoenix

#### INSPIRING



#### HOME TRUTHS

**THE PROPERTY** End of terrace, built around 1910

**LOCATION** Hampshire

**ROOMS** Hall, sitting/dining room, kitchen, office, two bedrooms, bathroom

**PURCHASED** 2010

**PREVIOUS PROPERTY**

'We both lived with our parents for a year while the project on this house was completed,' says Kathryn.



# DINING ROOM

Boasting a large extending table that comfortably seats 10, this area is a perfect space for entertaining. Bramante extending dining table, £499, Made. Bistro chairs, set of four £99, Tesco. The Elsa chandelier is near-identical, £235, Bhs







I



2

and walls came down and a small extension was added in place of the old coal shed and outside toilet.

On the ground floor is where the transformation is most apparent. 'We took down all the walls between the hall, sitting and dining room and chose not to put a door in the opening through to the kitchen,' explains Kathryn. 'This has resulted in a beautiful, light space and we love the view from the sofa, right down through the kitchen and out into the garden.'

Keeping paint colours neutral and simple, Kathryn opted for pale taupe on the ground floor level, combining soft grey and bright white upstairs. Floorboards were left exposed – they were stained dark brown downstairs and painted white on the first floor. 'I wanted to keep a subtle palette throughout so that the space didn't feel too busy,' she says. 'The look is punctuated with hits of colour, such as the indigo walls in the bathroom and neon hues in the office. This adds a bit of fun and keeps things interesting.'

Having drained their resources getting the basics fixed, funds were tight when it came to finishing the house. 'But I'm an eBay fiend, which saved the day,' says Kathryn. The new column radiators and the mattress were all sourced there with considerable savings. 'Our sofa was probably my best find. It came from a housing developer in Wimbledon that was selling its new showhome furniture. It's handmade, bespoke and worth £5,000 – we bought it for £87!'

Fascinated by vintage design and nostalgia, Kathryn likes to incorporate unusual touches into her interiors. The couple regularly visit antiques fairs, picking up bargains, including the old wooden sledge in the hall, which serves as a funky shoe rack and is a favourite find.

'I want everything we buy to tell a story, which is why I really love vintage gems,' explains Kathryn. 'But we enjoy contemporary pieces, too, and hopefully this house merges the two looks. We've certainly brought it alive again.'

**BEST BUY** 'A carpenter friend made our super king-size bed from a sample sale headboard and MDF panels that I upholstered. It cost about £100'

## I MASTER BEDROOM

**Feature wallpaper adds a decorative touch to a shelved alcove, while also matching the cushions.**

Cole & Son Malabar wallpaper, £72, Designer Wallpapers. Tin ceiling tile (on the wall), £19, Rockett St George. Walls painted in French Grey absolute matt emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene

## 2 BATHROOM

**Luxurious and glamorous, the bathtub stands proud against the bold backdrop.**

The Harvard freestanding bath is a match, £199, Victoria Plum. Loft freestanding bath/shower mixer, from £729, Roca. Find similar damask bath towels at Zara Home, from £8. Walls painted in Hicks Blue intelligent matt emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene



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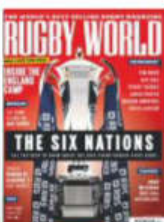
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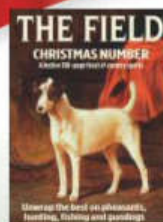
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- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 175 Bathrooms              | 176 Home Improvements |
| 173 Beds & Bedding         | 174 Home Interiors    |
| 176 Blinds                 | 175 Lighting          |
| 177 Conservatories         | 174 Sofas & Sofa beds |
| 176 Fabrics and Decoration | 177 Staircases        |
| 177 Floor Coverings        | 177 Window Blinds     |
| 168 Furniture              | 176 Window Stylings   |

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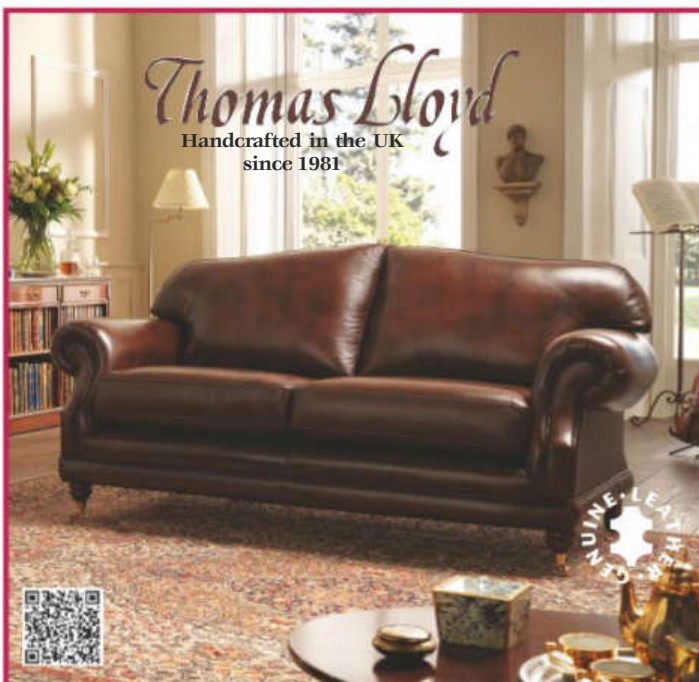


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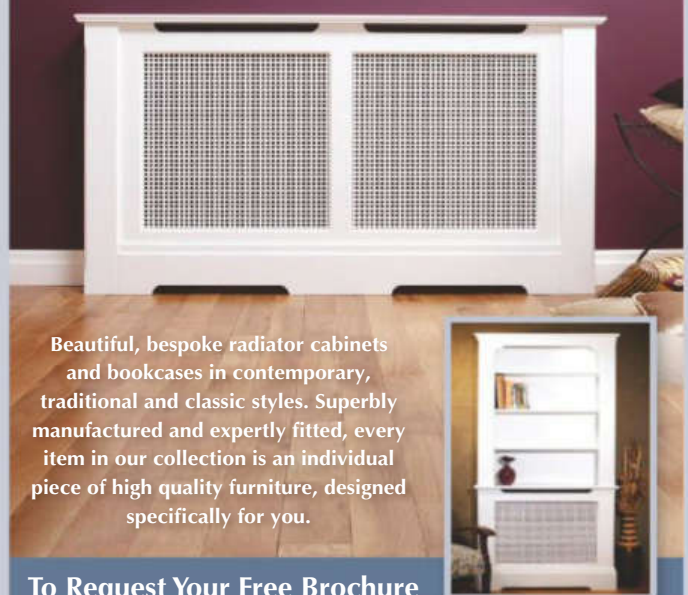
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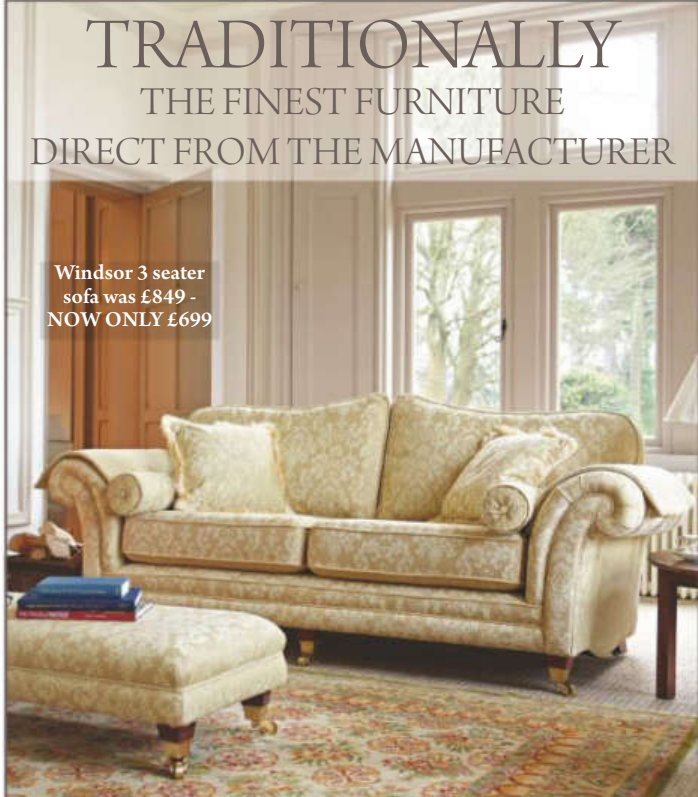


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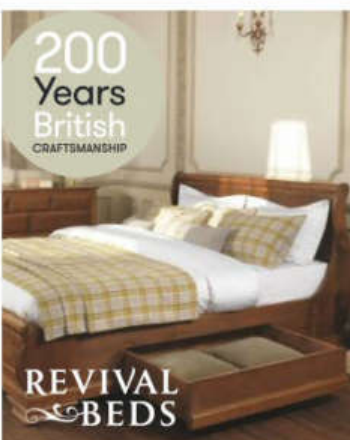


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# ROOM ENVY

*Each month we bring you a scheme that intrigues, delights or dazzles us*

**T**he beauty of the industrial chic trend is that it's timeless, simple and natural, and it works in both a classic or more modern setting – this dining area has got it spot on.

Heavy-duty furniture is an obvious feature to really achieve that warehouse feel, which is where this trestle table comes into its own. With its metal base and wooden tabletop, it looks timeworn in the most

elegant of ways. And the slightly mottled Eames-style chairs combined with a black leather bench are an inspired touch.

But the trick to prevent the space from looking too cold is the addition of a stylish neutral carpet. Its free-flowing pattern lends warmth and texture to the scheme, as well as providing comfort. Finished off with vintage glass pendant lights, it's a practical and functional design with ordered beauty. 

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